Hafa Adai!

Officer involved in Kagman shooting waives preliminary hearing. PAGE 2

Torres moves to dismiss Kingman anew from prosecuting his case. PAGE 3

$1

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'$11.1M in questioned costs just tip of iceberg'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday that he believes that the desk audit's finding of $11.1 million in questioned costs in the CNMI's use of the coronavirus relief funds, commonly known as CARES Act funds, is just the tip of the iceberg that they need to figure out.

At a press briefing in the governor's small conference room, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang also stated that he is sure that it's not going to be a surprise to have more findings of questioned costs of federal funds that happened during the previous administration.

"Besides [American Rescue Plan Act] ARPA issue, and COVID issue, there's going to

See $11.1M on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, right, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang hold a press briefing yesterday morning where they talked, among other issues, the desk audit's finding of $11.1 million in questioned costs in the CNMI's use of CARES Act funds.

LIVE FIRE RECERTIFICATION

EDWARD DELA CRUZ JR.

Commonwealth Ports Authority Authority-Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Lt. William Sablan leads participants from Guam Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Department for their FAR Part 139 live fire recertification last Friday at the Pacific ARFF Region Training Center Fire Pit.

OAG: Kaipat has been impermissibly released

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed a motion for reconsideration as to the release of convicted rapist Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat who was recently found guilty of nine separate felony charges which includes five counts of sexual assault.

Yesterday, OAG chief so-

See OAG on Page 4

Prosecution asks court to set Torres' trial for October

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The prosecution in the ongoing criminal case against former governor Ralph DLG Torres wants to move forward with trial and has asked that the Superior Court set a trial for October.

Last week, special prose-

See TORRES on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

46

INSIDE

NATION

In the hours before a wildfire engulfed the town of Lahaina, Maui County officials failed to activate sirens.

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WORLD

Seven people were killed in Russian shelling in Ukraine's southern Kherson region.

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OVERDRIVE

The 2023 Genesis G90 E-Supercharger is one of the most exquisite vehicles on the market today.

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Local

Officer involved in Kagman shooting waives his preliminary hearing

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The police officer involved in the Kagman shooting where a child was shot in the face has waived his preliminary hearing.

DPS officer Raymond Lizama Saralu, whose service-firearm is believed to have been the gun used in the Kagman shooting, waived his right to a preliminary hearing last Friday.

Because he has waived his preliminary hearing, Saralu's case will move forward with arraignment on Aug. 21, before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

According to court documents, DPS dispatch received a call from off-duty officer Saralu at around 9:06pm last May 21, asking that an ambulance be sent to his residence.

When first responders arrived, they found a 7-year-old boy lying in a pool of blood. He was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center, but was later transported to Guam Memorial Hospital for surgery.

Although he is recovering, the boy has reportedly lost vision in his left eye and has lost muscle control on one side of his face.

Court documents state that in the ambulance, the boy allegedly told his mother that his minor uncle took a gun from Saralu's work belt, which was on a chair in his bedroom. When the victim took the gun to give it back to Saralu, the gun went off on his face. The boy reiterated this statement in a follow up interview on June 14.

At Saralu's residence, officers stated that they found eight unsecured firearms, one was found near the boy and another was Saralu's service firearm, which was in its holster inside a basket covered with clothes.

Police noted that several of the firearms found were in an unfinished closet that had no doors or plywood shelving, with no trigger locks and were not inside a safe.

When police asked him, Saralu said he did not have a safe yet.

It was only recently determined that Saralu's service firearm was the one used in the accidental shooting after a ballistics test was conducted on three of the eight firearms that were found in the home.

Torres moves to dismiss Kingman anew from prosecuting his case

By KIMBERRLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The defense team for former governor Ralph DLG Torres has filed, again, a motion to dismiss or disqualify now assistant attorney general James Kingman from prosecuting his criminal case.

Last Thursday, Torres' band of lawyers filed a motion to dismiss or disqualify the Office of the Attorney General, more specifically AAG James Kingman, from prosecuting his criminal case on the argument that he is unauthorized to practice law in the CNMI.

Torres is represented by attorneys Viola Alepuyo, Victorino DLG Torres, Matthew Holley, and Anthony Aguon.

"Torres hereby files this motion to dismiss or alternatively to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General due to the unauthorized practice of law," said the motion.

In support of the motion, Torres' lawyers argue that based on Commonwealth law, the unauthorized practice of law has apparently occurred in this case.

Torres lawyers said they believe that between March 6, 2023, and July 13, 2023, Kingman engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in the Commonwealth while acting as a special prosecutor for this case, and was assisted, aided, and abetted by the Office of the Attorney General.

Specifically, Torres' lawyers allege that Kingman never took the attorney oath as required by CNMI Supreme Court rules to practice law in the Commonwealth.

"NMI Supreme Court Rule 75-2© mandates in clear and plain language that 'every person' must take the attorney oath prior to practicing law in the Commonwealth. Mr. Torres is unaware of any record or evidence showing that Mr. Kingman took the oath required by NMI Sup. Ct. R. 75-2© between March 6, 2023 and July 13, 2023. If he had taken the oath prior to July 13, 2023, then it would not have been necessary for him to be sworn in and sign another oath again on July 13, 2023, when he became an assistant attorney general. This means that each and every act taken by Mr. Kingman between March 6, 2023 and July 13, 2023 as Special Prosecutor for this case constitutes an unauthorized practice of law," said Torres' defense team.

Due to this alleged unauthorized practice of law, Torres' team of lawyers argues that the court should disqualify the OAG from prosecuting his case, or at the very least disqualify Kingman.

"The unauthorized practice of law justifies dismissal of this case with prejudice. If the court determines that the scope and scale of the unauthorized practice of law does not warrant the sanction of this case's dismissal with prejudice, then the court should disqualify the OAG from this case, or at a minimum disqualify assistant attorney generals Kingman and chief solicitor Robert Glass from prosecuting this case and any other case or charge against Mr. Torres arising from the same temporal period and/or the facts and circumstances as this case," said Torres' defense team," said the motion.

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OPT conducts Bus Fire Evacuation Drill

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Public School System bus drivers and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel pose for a photo after their CNMI PSS Office of Pupil Transportation Bus Fire Evacuation Drill yesterday morning at their office in Lower Base.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 2023-2024 school year is just around the corner and preparations are in order, with one such preparation—the Bus Fire Evacuation Drill—conducted by the CNMI Public School School System Office of Pupil Transportation yesterday at their office in Lower Base.

For the first time, Tinian and Rota bus drivers, along with Saipan bus drivers came together for the drill, rather than conducting it separately.

About 20 bus drivers were from Saipan, three were from Tinian, and five were from Rota.

The drill was made realistic with a fog simulator turned on and emitted a thick layer that mimicked smoke inside the buses. The drivers had to navigate through the smoke and retrieve mannequins from the buses as part of the evacuation drill.

Joseph Muna, safety officer of OPT who led the drill, said that the exercise's purpose is to hone the bus drivers' skills, so in that way, if an emergency, in this case a fire arises, they are able to respond, to assist the bus riders, and also to familiarize the drivers with the procedures and guidelines of how they conduct their evacuation plans.

With the fire evacuation drill specifically, Muna said the exercises "were scenario based, where we inform the driver that we've identified smoke in the bus; then show what are the steps in evacuating the students; and to ensure that the drivers are well aware of the steps to evacuate the bus; and it's part of their professional development as well."

A special education bus driver of two years, Norbert Ambalan, said that this was sort of a refresher for him as they also had this training last year. He said last year, they did the drill in pairs, but now, they did it solo, which was more challenging.

Asked how confident he is in case of an emergency, he said "I'm really confident that I can do the procedure safely and make sure that everyone's out when a fire occurs."

The drill was also observed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services firefighters.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

$11.1M

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be more," Apatang said.

Palacios said if this CARES Act's $36 million provided to the CNMI is problematic, he wonders if that's the same case with all the other funding opportunities and funding sources.

Palacios said he is not sure if the Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking into the $11.1 million questioned costs as the FBI hasn't shared anything to the administration.

The governor said, however, given the fact that CARES Act funding involves the U.S. Department of Treasury, he would not be surprised if they have a much more targeted review of it.

"I'm not sure if it's the FBI or the Department of Treasury. The U.S. department of Treasury, they have a much more detailed review audit," he said.

Palacios agreed with Department of Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita's earlier statement that obviously there's a lot of possible implications resulting from the desk audit.

"Obviously, we want to try our best to get the documentation that's required," the governor said.

Castro & Company LLC, a public auditing firm in Washington, D.C. that specializes in providing services to the federal government, reviewed and assessed obligation and expenditure data in CARES Act funds for the CNMI for the period of March 1, 2020, through March 31, 2022.

Palacios said what the desk audit review did was just kind of went in and took some of the expenditures and tried to look through documentation to validate those expenditures.

He said he believes it was a failure at the time with the Department of Finance to provide those documentation.

The governor said from what he understands based on some of the communications, that the auditor asked for some documents and they just ignored them.

"And that's pretty freaking ridiculous. That's pretty bad on our part, right?" Palacios said.

He said according to Finance Secretary Norita, the single audit also looked at part of questioned costs and the amount is larger in terms of not finding the documents "for somebody's money."

Palacios said some of those consequences are there and that's what they have to deal with to the best of their ability, try to fix that mess.

"And the unfortunate part is, you know, as we go into try to fix our books and improve our financial management system, we still have to go back again and get additional resources, whether it's human resources or financial resources for time to get those things done. But certainly, we have to do that," he said.

He said there's a lot of documents that are missing.

Palacios said as to what will happen to the 2021 and 2022 audits are something that they need to find out in order for the CNMI to improve.

"So whether there's misuse of those funds, we have to identify," he said, adding that one of the U.S. Department of Treasury's options is to probably do a full blown audit on the CARES Act itself.

The governor said the CNMI's economy was basically closed down during the pandemic and the Commonwealth was provided a substantial amount of money for COVID expenses and even for operational funds just to help survive.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Draft of working plan proposal for $20M MPLT line of credit done

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios disclosed yesterday that they already have a draft of a working plan proposal in connection with his request for the Marianas Public Land Trust to consider extending a $20-million line of credit for severally funded capital improvement or infrastructure projects in order to get these projects going and collect revenues.

Palacios at a press briefing said they had a short meeting last Friday with the Department of Finance, Capital Improvement Projects Office, Office of Planning and Development, and MPLT to go through MPLT's requests.

"Pretty much we have a draft. We pretty much have all those things already set up," said the governor, adding that he should be given a copy of the draft to review.

He said he believes when they were finished with the meeting, they understood where they needed to be.

Palacios said Liz Balajadia, who heads the Office of Planning and Development where a lot of these U.S. Economic Development Administration funds are, is leading a group that works on the plan proposal, along with Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita, and folks from the Office of Management and Budget.

Before it can extend the $20-million line of credit to the CNMI government, MPLT recently informed Palacios that it wants to see first, among other things, a letter from the EDA certifying that the CNMI is currently in compliance with EDA grant terms.

MPLT board of trustees chair Phillip Mendiola-Long said that they want to see a working plan proposal that will help them understand the request for line of credit, specifically the timeline of the proposed projects.

Last July 17, Palacios asked MPLT for a $20 million revolving line of credit for reimbursable federally funded grants for Capital Improvement Projects administered by the EDA.

OAG

From page 1

licitor Robert Glass Jr. filed a motion for reconsideration asking the Superior Court to revoke its decision to release Kaipat and to instead remand him to Department of Correction custody immediately.

Kaipat, 19, was convicted of nine felony charges last Friday for the rape and assault of his 28-year-old cousin. Following the jury trial, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan released Kaipat to his parents on the condition that he remain on house arrest pending sentencing.

However, Glass says that the court failed to follow the Commonwealth Code when it allowed Kaipat to remain out on bail even though he had been convicted.

"The court failed to follow 6 CMC § 6402 (b) which states: 'after conviction bail may be allowed only if a stay of execution of the sentence has been granted and only in the exercise of discretion by a court authorized to order a stay or by a judge thereof.' Bail after conviction is not a right. The Commonwealth legislature has restricted such discretion of the trial court to only those instances where a stay of the execution of the sentence has been granted," he said.

Glass further argued that based on the CNMI's rules of criminal procedure, another instance that a defendant can be released after a conviction is if a stay of execution of a sentence is granted. However, in this case, Kaipat has not been sentenced yet.

Because of this, Glass argues that Kaipat was impermissibly released and should be remanded to DOC immediately.

"Rule 38 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure also requires a sentence of imprisonment, a fine, or probation before a stay of execution may be granted. Here, no sentencing has occurred and thus, the sentence itself cannot be stayed. The court ordered house arrest, which defendant will no doubt argue counts towards future jail time credit. Because the court did not order a stay of execution of the sentence, and could not make such an order without first sentencing the defendant, defendant has been impermissibly released. He should be immediately remanded into custody," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, after just three hours of deliberation, Kaipat was found guilty on nine separate charges for his involvement in the brutal rape and beating of his now 28-year-old cousin in a family residence in San Vicente back on June 2, 2019.

Kaipat was found guilty of three counts of sexual assault in the first degree, two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, burglary, aggravated assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and strangulation.

Kaipat's sentencing has yet to be scheduled.

TORRES

From page 1

cutor James Kingman filed a scheduling memorandum where he informed the Superior Court that the prosecution wants to proceed with trial in the ongoing criminal case against Torres sooner rather than later.

Kingman, in his memorandum, asked that Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas consider a jury trial date in October and set a hearing for all pending pretrial motions within the month of August.

"The Commonwealth strongly prefers a hearing date on the pending pretrial motions as soon as possible, during August. The Commonwealth withdrew its request to amend the information to include additional charges. If only the 13 existing charges are going to go forward under this cause number, the trial will be limited in scope. October of 2023 would be ample time to get the appropriate witnesses reserved and to confirm their attendance. The Commonwealth anticipates a week of testimony from the Commonwealth on these charges," he said.

The defense, for its part, has yet to file its scheduling memorandum.

However, back in June, the defense told the court that they would be proposing a trial date in April 2024 to give ample time for the court to rule on all pending motions in the case, including the motion to amend the information against Torres, the subpoena issued by the Office of the Attorney General for Torres' financial records, the motion to disqualify special prosecutor James Kingman, and more.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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Local council takes NMC's NextGen to the next level

Saipan Municipal Council vice chair Antonia Manibusan Tudela took the concept of homegrown workforce capacity building to the next level last week by introducing the first 17th Council No. 16SNMIC-06 requesting the Department of Public Land Secretary Teresita Santos to designate certain parcels on Saipan for the proposed "Open Concept Farmers Market" under the auspices of the CNMI Farmers Organization in support of homegrown fresh food production locally.

The local council action comes shortly after receiving a Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services program-sponsored briefing held at the college's As Terlaje campus on Aug. 3: the briefing session was led by NMC professor Dr. Yunzi Zhang on the $10-million next generation of diverse food and agriculture professionals that the NMC flagship recently secured as one of 33 partners with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture $262.5 million investment in institutions of higher education.

NMC's five-year program includes degree-seeking scholarship opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral tuition-support.

A combination of experiential learning activities for off-site real time farms outside the CNMI in Asia and the U.S. mainland for NMC students are included in the NMC plan.

The indoor farming training component will be held on Saipan and open to local farmers and members of the greater community throughout the Commonwealth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Municipal Council secretary Carmen Cabrera Pangelinan, NMC-CREES' Roxe Lazaro, NMC Business' Karim Johnson, former representative William Torres, Saipan Municipal Council vice chair Antonia Manibusan Tudela, and Dr. Yuni Zhao.

Off-island instructors and trainers including local partners will provide assistance in agri-tourism summer academies, which are also open to local farmers and the greater community, including an outreach and engagement activities on veterinary workshops and training open to the community throughout the Commonwealth.

NIFA's 33 higher eligible higher learning partner institutions are the 1890 Land-grant Universities; 1994 Tribal Colleges and Universities; the Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSI); Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions; and institutions of higher education located in the insular areas, as well as their partners.

Among the 33 institutions of higher learning partnering with NIFA's "From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program" the University of Guam, University of Hawaii, Manoa campus, and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

The Biden administration-initiated inflation reduction strategy is implemented through NIFA to "enable eligible institutions, from New York to the Northern Mariana Islands, to build and sustain the next generation of food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences workforce" which also aims at lowering "costs for American families, expand access to markets to producers from all backgrounds and communities, build a clean energy economy and strengthen American supply chains."

In addition to NMC's Dr. Yuni Zhang, other presenters during the briefing session with the 17th municipal council were Karim Johnson of the business program and CREES program manager, Roxe I. Lazaro.

For her part, CREES' Roxe Lazaro talked about the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm and Food Workers Relief Program (FFWR). The program is available to frontline farm workers in commercial farms and engaged in farming, livestock, and meatpacking activities. Qualified applicants will receive a one-time $600 payment for expenses incurred during January 27, 2020 through May 11, 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligibility requirements for the one-time payment are proof of identity (photo id) and proof of employment (e.g. W-2, paystub, etc.).

Lazaro is open to convening a meeting with a group of prospective applicants and their employers to further discuss or answer questions or provide help with the application, and may be contacted at the NMC-CREES on Saipan. ***(PR)***

Ramos named to dean's list at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Maryland—John Lloyd Ramos of Saipan was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military service members. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of post-secondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 125 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu. ***(PR)***

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GCC Fall semester registration continues

There is still time to register for the upcoming Fall semester at Guam Community College. In-person registration is currently ongoing in Building 2000: Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm. The last day to register for the Fall semester is now Friday, Aug. 18, 2023.

Those interested in registering for the Fall semester should bring with them:

- Valid photo identification card
- High School transcripts
- Shot record
- Tax Year 2021 documents (for financial aid)

Online registration can be done at GuamCC.edu/Apply.

Existing students can still register for classes online using their MyGCC login credentials.

For more information, contact John Dela Rosa, GCC Asst. Director of Communications & Promotions, at 671-735-5638 (office), 671-482-4320 (cell), or john.delarosa@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

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UOG to receive $526K to address environmental challenges

UOG

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9, including Regional administrator Martha Guzman, seated, second from left; meet recently with Austin Shelton, director of the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, seated, third from left; and other Center staff at the G3 Circular Economy Makerspace and Innovation Hub at the Chamorro Village in Hagåtña, Guam.

The University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant will receive $526,000 as part of a new nationwide initiative to help local communities access federal technical assistance as they resolve environmental challenges.

UOG's participation will be through a partnership with San Diego State University.

SDSU will establish one of 17 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers nationwide. Each of the 17 centers will receive $10 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and UOG's $526,000 will come from its partnership with SDSU.

"UOG continues to serve our students, our island, and our region through our faculty and research expertise, as well as through meaningful partnerships we are building across the globe," said UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez. "We are pleased to partner with the prestigious San Diego State University under the leadership of its president, Dr. Adela Dela Torre, to deliver new resources and networks for the benefit of our island communities."

Many communities across the nation have the solutions to the environmental challenges they face but have lacked access or faced barriers when it comes to the crucial federal resources needed to deliver these solutions, said EPA administrator Michael S. Regan in a previously issued statement about the $177 million nationwide effort.

The 17 centers will ensure all communities can access benefits from President Biden's historic economic plan, Regan said, "which includes groundbreaking investments in clean air, clean water, and our clean energy future."

In Guam, the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant will lead outreach, engagement, and service delivery for Guam and the rest of the Micronesia region. The local efforts will be coordinated with the Guam Green Growth (G3) and the Guam Energy Office.

"Guam and the rest of Micronesia are no strangers to environmental justice issues. We are on the frontlines of climate change's impacts despite contributing the least to its causes. This significant grant will build local capacity to address some of these justice issues and expand our center's ability to support sustainable development in Guam and our region," stated Austin Shelton, Director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant.

Over the next five years, the SDSU Center for Community Energy and Environmental Justice and its partners will co-create accessible, multilingual, in-person, and virtual services to help communities that are often most affected by environmental challenges like drought, flooding, and pollution apply for government funding. ***(PR)***

Economist appointed dean of UOG's School of Business and Public Administration

Dr. Roseann Jones has been appointed Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration.

Jones has held the position in an interim capacity since November 2022.

She is a tenured professor of economics at the University of Guam, specializing in development economics, with subspecialty research in health care and environmental policy. She also served as Business Administration Division Chair.

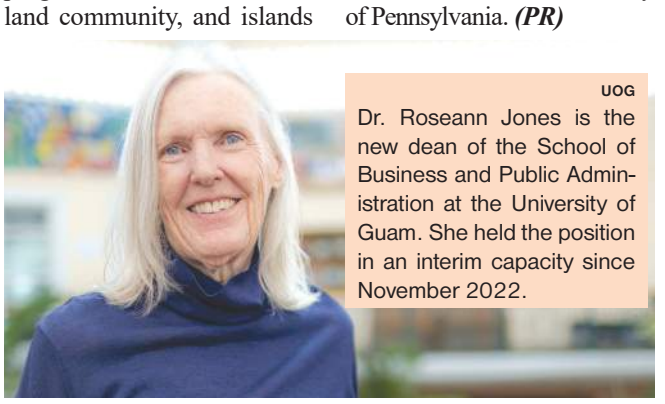
"Dr. Jones' leadership at SBPA comes at the right time as we continue to innovate and be responsive to the changing demands in our evolving workforce and island," said UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez.

Jones said SBPA will rise to the demand for degrees and programs that students, the island community, and islands in the Western Pacific region are seeking.

She also aims for SBPA to connect with more businesses to create more internship opportunities for students who would bring skills as strategic thinkers and problem-solvers along with their academic knowledge.

There are also plans to broaden professional certificate programs at SBPA to improve and update the knowledge and skills of those who are already in the workforce.

Jones earned a Ph.D. in economics and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Jones also holds a Master of Arts degree in City and Regional Planning and a Master of Government Administration from the Samuel Fels Center of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. ***(PR)***



UOG

Dr. Roseann Jones is the new dean of the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam. She held the position in an interim capacity since November 2022.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Republicans get the message that people want their abortion rights?

Here is the lesson from Tuesday's special election in Ohio, where voters resoundingly defeated a ballot measure that would have made it more difficult to pass state constitutional amendments—notably the one enshrining abortion rights in the Ohio Constitution on the November ballot:

People support abortion rights—and democracy.

Even people in a state that elected conservative leaders were highly motivated to participate in a hastily called special election in the dog days of summer with just one item on the ballot that wasn't about abortion but had everything to do with abortion.

The measure, Issue 1, which would have raised the threshold for passing a constitutional amendment ballot measure from a simple majority to a 60% supermajority, was placed on the ballot by the Republican-dominated legislature just a year after the same state legislature voted to eliminate most August special elections because of cost and low turnout. It would have also made it harder to collect the number of signatures needed to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot by requiring signatures from all of Ohio's 88 counties. Currently, signatures need to come from 44 of the counties.

Legislators made no secret that Issue 1 was an unabashed attempt to make it more difficult to pass a citizen-initiated amendment to the state constitution enshrining the right to an abortion up to fetal viability (or beyond when needed to protect the health of the pregnant person). Abortion protection amendments in other states have passed with simple majorities but under 60%.

Why have Republican leaders failed to grasp that the majority of Americans support the protection of abortion rights, regardless of the political leanings of the state in which they live? Last year, 59% of Kansas voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would have declared abortion not protected by the constitution. Voters in Michigan, Kentucky, California and Vermont passed constitutional amendments in 2022 either making it clear they want abortion rights protected or rejecting amendments that did away with protections.

Tuesday's election result shows that voters are smart enough not to fall for a sneaky ruse to make it more difficult to pass abortion protections. Even some Republicans balked at this anti-democratic attempt to hamper the ability of people to change their state constitution. Four former Ohio governors — two Democrats and two Republicans (including John Kasich, who supported abortion restrictions when he was governor) — spoke out against Issue 1.

When the issue of abortion is put in the hands of state voters, they have chosen to protect it. The Ohio measure was rejected by 57% of the voters, which mirrors the 57.6% of Ohioans who said in a recent poll they support the abortion rights constitutional amendment. Nearly 700,000 early in-person and mail ballots were cast. That's more than twice the roughly 289,000 early votes cast in the May 2022 Ohio primaries, which featured Democrats and Republicans running for U.S. Senate and gover-

See REPUBLICANS on Next Page

Donald Trump and the eleven dwarfs

By PATRICIA MURPHY
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

You all already know Donald Trump, the favorite for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination. But have you met the supporting characters in his story?

There's Grumpy, the Florida governor, and Friendly, the senator from South Carolina. You know Smarty, the former UN ambassador, and Screamy, the New Jersey governor who helped Trump get elected the first time around, but had a change of heart after Trump was in the White House.

There's Talky, the young businessman who is full of new ideas, and Ho-Hum, the governor of North Dakota who has loads of policy prescriptions but is unknown to most voters.

There are 11 players in all, depending on who you count as really running. And they all could be viable candidates in their own ways, with resumes and records and personal stories you might be impressed by. But as Trump blazes the presidential campaign trail with drama and rage and pizazz and controversy, the other Republicans seem to make themselves smaller every day.

The biggest riddle right now is why nearly every candidate is adding lines to their stump speeches that support Trump's insistence that the entire criminal justice system is rigged against him. Don't blame Trump, his opponents are essentially telling voters, he's the real victim here.

That was the theme at U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson's BBQ Bash in Cedar Rapids on Sunday, when Gov. Ron DeSantis never mentioned Trump, but he did promise to "clear out the DOJ" and appoint a new FBI director "on Day One."

"We are going to stop the weaponization of federal power!" he promised, as two men in the audience raised their Trump signs to cheer him on.

Businessman Perry Johnson bragged that he'd been the first person to promise to pardon Trump back in March, even though he did not know which crimes he'd be pardoning Trump for at the time.

"I think it's unfair that we start picking on our candidates and let the Democrats decide who should be running, This is not right," Johnson said.

Vivek Ramaswamy didn't say Trump's name in his speech, but he did promise to shut down the FBI, the ATF, the IRS, the CDC and the rest of the corrupt Deep State.

Nikki Haley mentioned Trump only once, and that was to illustrate how well they'd worked together when she was his ambassador to the U.N.

Trump didn't go to Hinson's BBQ Bash, but he did headline an Iowa GOP dinner the week before. And while his fellow Republicans mostly avoided mentioning him that night, he didn't return the favor.

"I understand the other campaigns are falling flat. Have you heard that?" he said with a smile when he met with supporters before his dinner speech. "It's like death. There's no applause, there's no nothing."

He called the rest of the field "establishment globalists," and singled out DeSantis, whom he called "Ron DeSanct-us," and Christie for the sharpest ridicule.

"Sloppy Chris Christie, the big slob," Trump laughed as the room roared with him. "He didn't have the courage to come (to the event). But why should he come when he's at 0%? He finally did something smart for a change."

Just like his fellow candidates, Trump also said the Democrats are "weaponizing the Justice Department" and "weaponizing the FBI," giving the rest of them the script they'd quickly follow, too.

The only people Trump praised in his Iowa speech, other than himself, were the Democrats.

"One thing I'll say about the Democrats is they're vicious," he said, as a grudging compliment. "The Republicans are nice. We need a little bit of viciousness, don't you think?"

If the candidates running against Trump for the GOP nomination wonder why they can't raise their name IDs or get a bump in the polls, they should take a good look in their mirrors or playback their campaign videos. That's where they'll see a group of cautious, don't-go-there, ignore-him-and-he'll-go-away politicians, all running for president while running scared of the frontrunner.

Or maybe they're just running to get picked as Trump's running mate. If any of them tried to be a real alternative to Trump for the 40%-to-50% of Republican voters looking for a different way, they'd probably pick up some serious steam. But for the most part, that isn't happening.

The most significant exception to all of this is Mike Pence, Trump's former vice president who may end up being a witness against Trump in a Jan. 6 trial, if it comes to that. Pence told CNN's Dana Bash last week that Trump and his lawyers asked him to unconstitutionally overturn the 2020 election.

"The American people deserve to know that President Trump asked me to put him over my oath to the Constitution, but I kept my oath and always will," Pence said.

In response, Trump called Pence "delusional."

The great irony of all of this is that even though Republicans now accuse Democrats of bringing the indictments against Trump to keep him out of the presidential race, having Trump as the 2024 nominee would be the best result Democrats could hope for. He's the only candidate who even keeps it close in a race with President Joe Biden, who for the purposes of this drama we can call "Oldie." Polls show nearly any other Republican could defeat Biden in a walk.

But the Democrats still have the upper hand for now, thanks to Trump and his cast of supporting actors, who are leaving the stage, the script, and the ultimate outcome to him.

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Income ladder is difficult to climb for US metro areas

By JUSTIN FOX
Bloomberg Opinion

Justin Fox is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering business, economics and other topics involving charts. A former editor and writer at the Harvard Business Review, Time and Fortune, he is author of "The Myth of the Rational Market."*

In 1949, the list of the country's most affluent metropolitan areas was dominated by Midwestern industrial cities.

Many of those places aren't so affluent anymore, relatively speaking. I assembled a version of this chart for a column a few weeks ago about the fortunes of San Francisco and Detroit, and it engendered much commentary on social media about the fleeting nature of regional economic success.

But what about the poorest metropolitan areas in 1949? How did things go for them?(1)

The good news is that these places haven't become poorer. Adjusted for inflation, median household incomes have more than doubled in most, and the increases are somewhat understated because I've used the national consumer price index to do the adjusting, and these areas have probably experienced price increases below the national average, especially for housing, since 1949.(2)

Still, most of these areas remain near the bottom of the income rankings. I used the 2017-2021 five-year estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey because they're more accurate than the one-year estimates (the 2018-2022 estimates won't be out until December) and set a population cutoff of 1 million to get roughly the same number of metro areas as the Census Bureau's cutoff of 250,000 did in 1949. Six of the least affluent metro areas from 1949 are still in the bottom 15, while Johnstown, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Utica-Rome all have low enough incomes to qualify but not enough people.

Only three of the 15 most affluent metro areas in 1949 (San Francisco, New York and Washington) are still in the top 15, two (Buffalo and Cleveland) have fallen into the bottom 15 and four (Toledo, Dayton, Akron and Youngstown) have median incomes low enough to make the bottom 15 but not enough inhabitants to qualify. So there seems to be a lot more persistence at the bottom than the top. There's also regional persistence, with Southern metros in the majority on the least affluent list in 1949 and now.

That local poverty tends to persist is not news. A 2014 City Observatory study found that three-quarters of 1970 high-poverty U.S. urban neighborhoods were still poor in 2010. On a regional level, things weren't always so static — from 1929 until the 1970s, there was a lot of convergence in the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis's estimates of state and regional per-capita personal income (that is, average income, as opposed to the median incomes shown in the above tables). But they stopped coming together after that, and the Southeast and Southwest were the country's poorest regions in 2022 just as they were in 1929. (In the BEA's taxonomy, the Southeast stretches from Virginia and West Virginia at one end to Arkansas and Louisiana at the other, and the Southwest is Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.)

This may all seem a bit strange, given all the attention paid these days to pandemic-accelerated shifts of people and economic activity toward the South and to a lesser extent the Mountain West. The 2017-2021 median household income numbers are old enough that they may just be missing some of those shifts, but the per-capita income numbers are available through the first quarter of this year and continue to show the Southeast and Southwest in last place and not really gaining ground.

Why aren't they rising up the income ranks? One key reason is, paradoxically, that people keep moving there. In an influential 2017 paper, economists Peter Ganong and Daniel Shoag proposed that incomes stopped converging across states in the U.S. after 1980 because constraints on residential construction in high-income places drove housing prices so high that it no longer made sense for low-income workers to migrate to these places in search of opportunity:

Through most of the twentieth century, both janitors and lawyers earned considerably more in the tri-state New York area (NY, NJ, CT) than their colleagues in the Deep South (AL, AR, GA, MS, SC). This was true in both nominal terms, and after adjusting for differences in housing prices. Migration responded to these differences, and this labor reallocation reduced income gaps over time.

Today, though nominal premiums to being in the New York area are large for these two occupations, the high costs of housing in the New York area have changed this calculus. Lawyers continue to earn much more in the New York area in both nominal terms and net of housing costs, but janitors now earn less in the New York area after subtracting housing costs than they do in the Deep South.

In short, people with lower-income jobs were being incentivized to move to lower-income areas, and those with higher-income jobs to move to higher-income areas — which locked existing regional inequalities in place.

Then came the Covid-19 pandemic, and a sudden shift to remote work seemed to offer a new path for white-collar workers. If they could keep earning New York salaries while living somewhere else, their already high real earnings would shoot even higher. Luring them, of course, presented an opportunity for lower-income metro areas to rise up the income ladder.

As remote work is supplanted by hybrid work with some office presence required, it could be that the main effect will be within regions — as seen in the "Donut Effect" of suburban property values rising relative to those closer to downtown — rather than between them. Then again, a recent New York Times analysis of Census data found that even before the pandemic, the most expensive metropolitan areas had begun to experience a net outflow of college graduates, with less-expensive large metros getting most of the inflows.

In other words, something may well be afoot, and it could be too early to expect the income statistics to reflect it. Those statistics do teach, though, that breaking out of the low-income ranks isn't easy. Baltimore was the only metro area to make the leap from the least affluent 15 in 1949 to the most affluent now, and it was able to ride the coattails of the post-World War II economic juggernaut next door, metro Washington.

Metropolitan Raleigh, North Carolina, which was too small to have its median household income measured in 1949, seems likely to have been below the bottom-15 income cutoff then, too. And four other metros from the 1949 least affluent list—Nashville, Norfolk, Atlanta and Richmond—now have household incomes above the 2017-2021 national median of $69,021. Breaking out of the bottom ranks isn't impossible. It's just a lot harder than falling from the top.

Notes

■ If you're wondering why the incomes collected from the 1950 Census are for 1949, it's because in early 1950 people could only reliably tell Census takers what they'd made in the previous year. As for why the population cutoff was based on the 1940 population, that seems to be because the Census Bureau needed to decide ahead of time where to make the extra effort to ask enough people about their incomes to calculate a metro-area median.

■ Local CPI numbers are available for some but not all of these metro areas back to 1949, and while there are regional CPI numbers available that far back, I didn't think that, say, the Northeastern CPI would be much more reflective of conditions in Johnstown and Scranton than the national one.

We must stop the school-to-prison pipeline

By SONYA SONI
Progressive Perspectives

Sonya Soni is a community organizer and policy advocate confronting the structural violence of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems domestically and internationally. She serves as the Advocacy Program Director at the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, founded by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. She is a Public Voices fellow of The OpEd Project and The National Black Child Develop Institute.

After years of protests and community organizing, on June 30 California shut the doors on the last of its youth prisons, signaling the end of what was once the nation's largest network of these facilities. The model is also losing steam nationwide, as states from Connecticut to Maine slowly abolish youth prisons and replace them with a holistic restorative justice framework of collective care and support for young people.

Despite this positive movement, however, we have failed, as a country, to acknowledge that young people of color are at risk of being insidiously caught in a web that extends far beyond the prison walls, regardless of how many detention facilities remain standing.

The United States was founded in part on the belief that Black and Indigenous youth were not fully people at all but, rather, acceptable targets of racialized criminalization. Free Black child apprentices, for example, were frequently and forcibly separated from their families and placed into servitude in early America. And in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Indigenous children were warehoused into white boarding schools by the federal government as a first step toward destabilizing tribal family structures.

While overall youth arrest and incarceration rates have declined over the past decade, young people of color are still surveilled, policed and separated from their families and communities more frequently than their white counterparts. Instead of investing in community resources, this pattern is often accompanied by a shoring up of government systems, programs and placements that further institutionalize, traumatize and isolate young people.

School resource officers, for example, are disproportionately placed in schools with a higher Black and Latino population, leading to a higher rate of school-based arrests and a gateway into the criminal justice system. Mandated reporting — a policy that requires teachers to report any signs they perceive as harm or neglect among their students — can also contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline, as children whose guardians are reported often end up being shuffled between penitentiary-esque group homes.

On any given day, a young person can walk into a classroom and end up institutionalized in a group home or sent to foster care by the end of the week, if their family is accused of abuse based on his or her appearance. Of those who have been reported to child protective services, 50% confessed that the institutions they were forced into brought more harm rather than support.

Rather than confront the root causes of youth instability, from unjust housing policies to the prison industrial complex, the system is skewed toward punishing young people of color and their families. Movements across the country, including Mandated Reporting is Not Neutral, Mandated Supporters, Not Reporters and JMACforFamilies, are striving to end the use of educators and social workers to police students and, instead, help them to make sure that young people can thrive.

REPUBLICANS

From page 8

nor, according to Ohio-based WOUB Public Media. When will Republican leaders stop being so myopic and realize that trying to take away abortion rights is a colossal failure at the polls?

It's heartening to see people rise up to support abortion rights and democracy. In the year since the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturned Roe vs. Wade and took away the constitutional protection of abortion rights, the fight to protect abortion rights has gained momentum, but is far from over. The battles over reproductive rights continue across the country and even in Ohio. Trouncing Issue 1 was just the first step. Ohio voters must once again turn out in November to exercise their right to amend their state constitution—by a reasonable majority—and ensure that it protects the right to an abortion.

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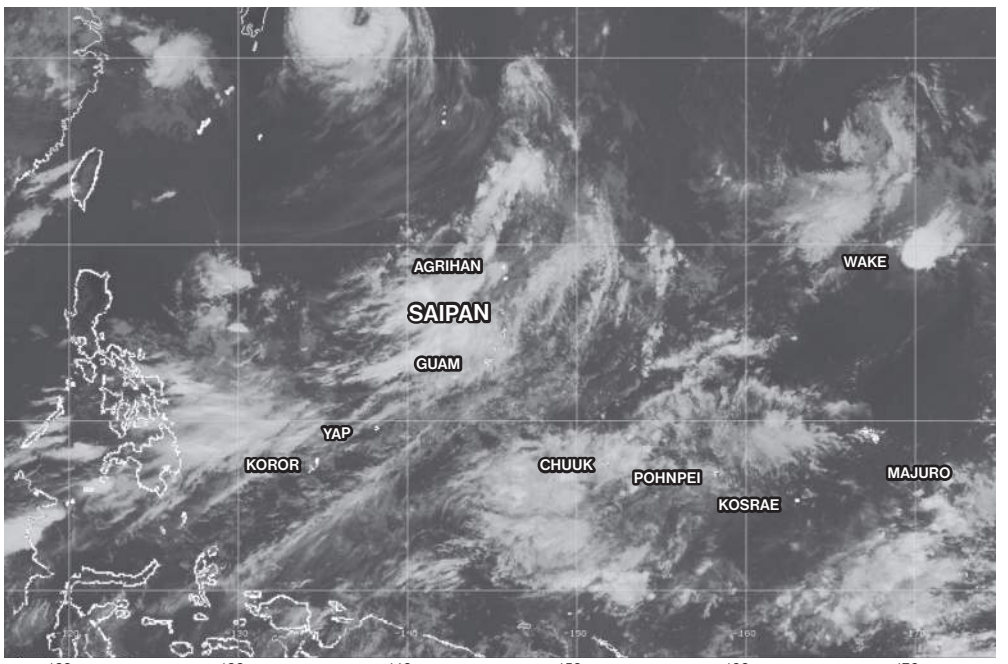
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86° 79°	86° 78°	86° 78°	85° 78°	85° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:28 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just northwest of the Marianas. The Ipan buoy reveals a 2 to 3 foot east-northeast swell with some diminishing south wind waves. Computer model wave guidance calculates a 5 to 7 foot west swell which will begin diminishing this evening.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:48 AM	6:06 PM	-
Wednesday	5:39 AM	6:46 PM	-
Thursday	6:29 AM	7:22 PM	-
Friday	7:16 AM	7:57 PM	-
Saturday	8:02 AM	8:30 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	91° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	89° / 78°
London	Rain	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Paris	Showers	73° / 57°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Rome	Sunny	99° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	72° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:25 AM	Low Tide	1.31
6:06 AM	High Tide	1.84
1:30 PM	Low Tide	0.01
8:33 PM	High Tide	1.86

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Biden, House Dems hope to make curbing 'junk fees' winning issue in 2024

WASHINGTON (AP)— Congressional Democrats are teaming up with the Biden administration and a progressive advocacy group to turn policy efforts to curb " junk fees " into a political rallying cry, betting that a small but potentially potent kitchen table issue will resonate with voters.

President Joe Biden promised in this year's State of the Union address to target unexpected fees tacked on to things like plane and concert tickets, hotel rooms, hospital and cellphone bills and housing transactions. He's since worked with major businesses to see that pricing is more transparent about all fees.

More than a dozen House Democrats around the country plan to hold events organized with help from the Progressive Change Institute to promote the administration's effort to curb junk fees. Events have already happened in suburban Detroit, Philadelphia, central New Jersey and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Similar efforts are planned in coming weeks in Pittsburgh, New York and Las Vegas, as well as in Wisconsin, Ohio and North Carolina. Still others are in the works.

"Hidden and deceptive junk fees cost Americans billions of dollars every year," said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, the Democratic House leader. "House Democrats will continue to work with President Biden to fight these excessive fees, hold corporations accountable and lower costs for families across the country."

Rep. Elissa Slotkin a swing-district Michigan Democrat who is now running for the Senate, is planning an event in a few weeks and said "the administration's initiative to eliminate junk fees will put money back in peoples' pockets."

Fellow Michigan Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib referred to seat assignment fees in saying she was "taken aback to see airlines charging more for you to sit next to your child" during an event last week at a health center outside Detroit with Democratic Rep. Debbie Dingell.

The push is part of " Bidenomics," the president's effort to stimulate the economy by increasing social spending in ways he says can strengthen the middle class. It could ease the sting of inflation, which has moderated in recent months but remains high. But it may also help Biden bridge the gap between an economy that many metrics show is strong — with low unemployment rates and wages rising — and polling suggesting that many Americans don't view that as a positive for Democrats.

AP

President Joe Biden speaks in the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington, June 15, 2023, to highlight his administration's push to end so-called junk fees that surprise customers.

"We've got to be in a position to show people what we've done," Biden said at a fundraiser last week for his 2024 reelection campaign in New Mexico, referring to public perceptions on the economy. He added: "It doesn't show. It takes time for people to realize why that's there."

The Biden administration has used executive action to try to limit ticketing and medical fees, and used federal agencies to try to curb unexpected charges in banking, airlines and other sectors. The president also announced in June that company executives meeting with him at the White House, including from Live Nation Entertainment, the parent company of Ticketmaster, and SeatGeek, had agreed to disclose more ticketing fees up front so consumers have a better idea of final pricing as they comparison shop.

House Democrats have introduced legislation to crack down on unexpected fees and, at their events, some are seeking to localize the issue, inviting people to speak about their experiences of being forced to pay them.

One such story comes from Joe Pfister, a 36-year-old paralegal. He had been looking to buy a home for a year and a half and went for a tour of the Brooklyn co-op he eventually bought on the day before New York shut in the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. But he wasn't expecting thousands of dollars in additional fees that came later from the mortgage lender, real estate agent and co-op company.

"They just kind of sprang up one at a time, and you just had to keep paying to move your application forward," said Pfister, whose unexpected charges included more than $400 worth of questionnaire fees, $200 in COVID-19 cleaning fees and a $750 move-in deposit. "You were kind of on the ride and you couldn't get off."

The Progressive Change Institute's political arm, the Progress Change Campaign Committee, was closely allied with Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren's 2020 presidential campaign, which was built around championing consumer protections and promoting progressive causes through economic populism. Combating unexpected fees could be an extension of that theme, with appeals for progressives but also for moderate Democrats and swing voters.

"Fighting surprise junk fees is super popular and bipartisan with the public because everyone hates these abusive extra costs," said Adam Green, the Progressive Change Institute co-founder.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the party's House campaign arm, says its members are spending the August recess trumpeting the economic impact of Biden-championed legislation promoting domestic microchip production and the Inflation Reduction Act, which advanced green energy and drastically increased federal social spending. But some lawmakers, including in competitive districts, are pointing to quelling junk fees as a pocketbook issue that voters will feel more immediately than data points about the larger economy.

"Bidenomics is about growing the middle class, which is why President Biden is spearheading the fight against junk fees that are unjustly raising costs," said Kevin Munoz, a spokesperson for Biden's reelection campaign.

The White House sees the effort as an example of good governance with bipartisan benefits. Consumer Reports conducted a 2018 survey that found that at least 85% of Americans have experienced a hidden or unexpected fee for a service in the previous two years.

BOH providing financial help for those impacted by Maui wildfires

HONOLULU, Hawaii— Bank of Hawai'i is announcing today several financial assistance programs to help Maui residents affected by the ongoing wildfires.

"The devastation unfolding on Maui is heartbreaking for all of us. While we are only just beginning to comprehend the great loss to our community, our hope is that residents can find some immediate relief through these programs that provide financial assistance during this unimaginable time," said Peter Ho, chairman, CEO and president of Bank of Hawai'i.

The programs allow access to cash via an emergency loan or relief on an existing Bank of Hawai'i loan through an extension or forbearance for Maui residents.

Emergency Loan Program:

- Fixed interest rate
- Fast approval and quick funding, with no income documents required
- Loan amounts up to $5,000
- Predictable monthly payments
- Loan fee waived
- Funds may be used to provide temporary cash relief for emergency supplies and living essentials.

Forbearance Program:

- Provides loan forbearance for up to 6 months for residential mortgages, home equity loans and home equity lines.
- Following the end of the forbearance period, Bank of Hawai'i will work with you to resolve any unpaid payments.
- Fees accrued during the forbearance period are waived.
- Loans must be less than 30 days past due prior to the wildfires.

Extension Program:

- Provides a loan extension for up to 3 months for products, including: direct installment (personal loans) and indirect loans (auto).
- Principal and interest payments will be deferred for the term of the extension.
- Full payments are due on the first due date following the end of the term of the extension.
- Loans must be less than 30 days past due prior to the wildfires.

For payment relief on an existing Bank of Hawai'i loan or line, call 800-888-9275 or 808-694-1500. For real estate loans, please call 877-926-7297 or 808-694-7297.

Details are also available at http://www.boh.com/maui-relief or by visiting a Bank of Hawai'i branch. ***(PR)***

Matson mobilizing for Maui disaster response

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Cargo operations at Maui's Kahului Harbor continue uninterrupted and unaffected by the wildfires in other areas of the island and Matson's twice weekly service to Maui continues as normal.

Matson is working closely with federal, state, and county emergency response agencies to assess needs and prioritize the movement of emergency equipment and supplies to Maui as part of the ongoing response to the wildfire crisis there.

Matson's barge Haleakala will depart Honolulu this afternoon with 160 containers onboard and arrive at Kahului tomorrow morning.

Matson has also chartered an additional barge which will be standing by for emergent requirements in support of the relief efforts.

To expedite the movement of disaster response and emergency cargo, the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission is allowing Matson to temporarily carry disaster response and relief goods and equipment between Honolulu and Maui.

Matson operates a hub-and-spoke system in Hawaii, sailing mainline containerships between the U.S. West Coast and Honolulu three times a week, with connecting service to the Neighbor Islands on owned barges. It will maintain its normal schedule of barge arrivals at Kahului on Tuesdays and Fridays. The company has scheduled one extra Maui sailing, on Sunday, August 20, and is considering additional sailings to Maui should they be needed.

In addition to working with government agencies, the company is working with a number of its customers to send shipments of relief supplies to Maui in the coming days and is in communication with nonprofit organizations about shipments to Maui.

Nonprofit organizations needing assistance in getting relief goods to Maui are asked to apply for such assistance on the company's website at Matson.com/Community. 2

About Matson

Founded in 1882, Matson (NYSE: MATX) is a leading provider of ocean transportation and logistics services. Matson provides a vital lifeline of ocean freight transportation services to the domestic non-contiguous economies of Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam, and to other island economies in Micronesia. Matson also operates premium, expedited services from China to Long Beach, California, provides service to Okinawa, Japan and various islands in the South Pacific, and operates an international export service from ports in Alaska to Asia. The Company's fleet of owned and chartered vessels includes containerships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout North America and Asia. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage, warehousing, freight consolidation, supply chain management, and freight forwarding to Alaska. Additional information about the Company is available at www.matson.com. ***(PR)***

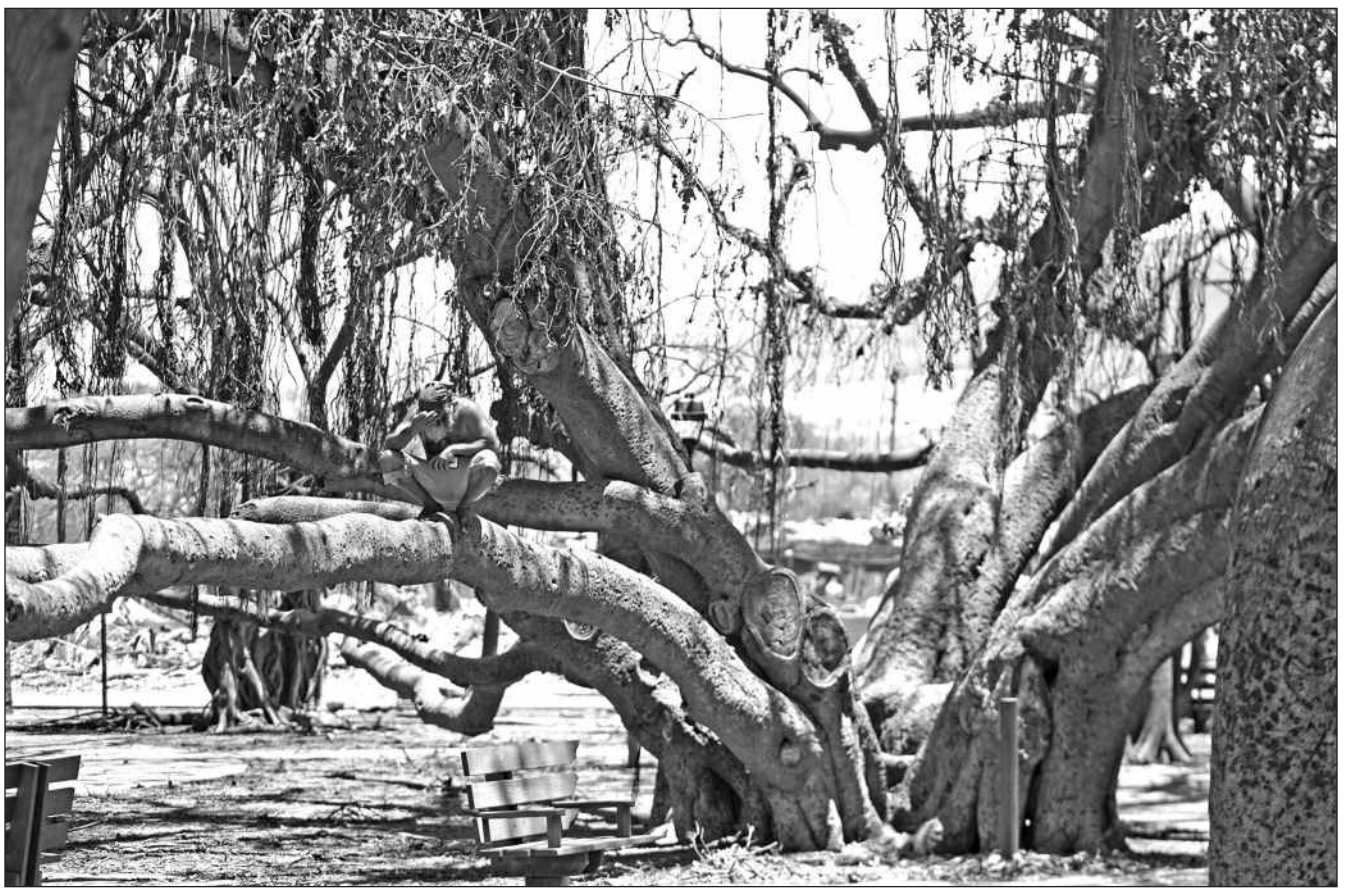
Nation

In deadly Maui wildfires, communication failed

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP)—In the hours before a wildfire engulfed the town of Lahaina, Maui County officials failed to activate sirens that would have warned the entire population of the approaching flames and instead relied on a series of sometimes confusing social media posts that reached a much smaller audience.

Power and cellular outages for residents further stymied communication efforts. Radio reports were scarce, some survivors reported, even as the blaze began to consume the town. Road blocks then forced fleeing drivers onto one narrow downtown street, creating a bottleneck that was quickly surrounded by flames on all sides. At least 80 people have been confirmed dead so far.

The silent sirens have raised questions about whether everything was done to alert the public in a state that possesses an elaborate emergency warning system for a variety of dangers including wars, volcanoes, hurricanes and wildfires.



AP

A man reacts as he sits on the Lahaina historic banyan tree damaged by a wildfire on Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii.

Hector Bermudez left his apartment at Lahaina Shores shortly after 4:30 p.m. Tuesday after the smell of smoke woke him up from a nap. He asked his neighbor if he was also leaving.

"He said, 'No, I am waiting for the authorities to see what they are going to do,'" Bermudez recounted. "And I said, 'No, no no, please go. This smoke is going to kill us. You have to go. Please. You gotta get out of here. Don't wait for nobody.'"

His neighbor, who is about 70 and has difficulty walking, refused.

Bermudez doesn't know if he survived.

Officials with Maui's Emergency Management Agency did not immediately respond Friday to questions about sirens and other communications issues.

Hawaii's Attorney General Anne Lopez said her office will be conducting a comprehensive review of decision-making and standing policies surrounding the wildfires.

"My Department is committed to understanding the decisions that were made before and during the wildfires and to sharing with the public the results of this review," she said in a statement Friday, adding that "now is the time to begin this process of understanding."

The Associated Press created a timeline of the wildfires, using information from multiple sources including the county's announcements, state and local Emergency Management Alerts and interviews with officials and survivors.

The timeline shows public updates on the fires were spotty and often vague, and much of the county's attention was focused on another dangerous, larger fire in Upcountry Maui that was threatening neighborhoods in Kula. It shows no indication that county officials ever activated the region's all-hazard siren system, and reveals other emergency alerts were scarce.

In the hours before the wildfires began, however, warnings about high winds were frequent and widely disseminated by the county and other agencies. A hurricane passing far to the south was expected to bring gusts of up to 65 mph (105 kph), residents were told on Monday.

The Upcountry fire started first, reported not long after midnight on Tuesday, and the first evacuations near Kula followed.

The fire near Lahaina started later, around 6:37 a.m. Tuesday. Some homes in Lahaina's most inland neighborhood were evacuated, but by 9:55 a.m. the county reported that the fire was fully contained. Still, the announcement included another warning that high winds would remain a concern for the next 24 hours.

The power also went out early that morning, leaving several thousand customers in the Lahaina/West Maui region and Upcountry without electricity. Several downed power lines required repair.

By 11 a.m., firefighting crews from several towns and the Hawaii Department of Lands had converged on the Upcountry fire, but wind gusts reaching 80 mph (129 kph) made conditions unsafe for helicopters. At 3:20 p.m., more Upcountry neighborhoods were evacuated.

The Lahaina fire, meanwhile, had escaped containment and forced the closure of the Lahaina Bypass road by 3:30 p.m. The announcement, however, didn't make it into a county fire update until 4:45 p.m. and didn't show up on the county Facebook page until nearly 5 p.m., when survivors say flames were surrounding the cars of families trapped downtown.

But while the Lahaina fire was spreading, Maui County and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency officials were making other urgent announcements — including a Facebook post about additional evacuations near the Upcountry fire and an announcement that the acting governor had issued an emergency proclamation.

Barrels of drinking water for migrants walking through Texas disappear

HEBBRONVILLE, Texas (AP)—As one of the worst heat waves on record set in across much of the southern United States this summer, authorities and activists in South Texas found themselves embroiled in a mystery in this arid region near the border with Mexico.

Barrels of life-saving water that a human rights group had strategically placed for wayward migrants traveling on foot had vanished.

Usually, they are hard to miss. Labeled with the word "AGUA" painted in white, capital letters and standing about waist-high, the 55-gallon (208-liter), blue drums stand out against the scrub and grass, turned from green to a sundried brown.

The stakes of solving this mystery are high.

Summer temperatures can climb to 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) in Texas' sparsely populated Jim Hogg County, with its vast, inhospitable ranchlands. Migrants — and sometimes human smugglers — take a route through this county to try to circumvent a Border Patrol checkpoint on a busier highway about 30 miles (48 kilometers) to the east. More than 60 miles (96 kilometers) from the U.S.-Mexico border, it can take several days to walk there for migrants who may have already spent weeks crossing mountains and desert and avoiding cartel violence.

"We don't have the luxury of losing time in what we do," said Ruben Garza's, an investigator with the Jim Hogg Sheriff's Office. Tears streamed down his face as he recalled helping locate a missing migrant man who became overheated in the brush, called for help but died just moments after his rescue.

Exact counts of those who die are difficult to determine because deaths often go unreported. The U.N. International Organization for Migration estimates almost 3,000 migrants have died crossing from Mexico to the U.S. by drowning in Rio Grande, or because of lack of shelter, food or water.

Mishmash of how US heat deaths counted complicates efforts to keep people safe

PHOENIX (AP)—Postal worker Eugene Gates Jr. was delivering mail in the suffocating Dallas heat this summer when he collapsed in a homeowner's yard and was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Carla Gates said she's sure heat was a factor in her 66-year-old husband's death, even though she's still waiting for the autopsy report. When Eugene Gates died on June 20, the temperature was 98 degrees Fahrenheit (36.6 Celsius) and the heat index, which also considers humidity, had soared over 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius).

"I will believe this until the day I die, that it was heat-related," Carla Gates said.

Even when it seems obvious that extreme heat was a factor, death certificates don't always reflect the role it played. Experts say a mishmash of ways more than 3,000 counties calculate heat deaths means we don't really know how many people die in the U.S. each year because of high temperatures in an ever warming world.

That imprecision harms efforts to better protect people from extreme heat because officials who set policies and fund programs can't get the financial and other support needed to make a difference.

"Essentially, all heat related deaths are preventable. People don't need to die from the heat," said epidemiologist Kristie L. Ebi, who focuses on global warming's impact on human health as a professor at the University of Washington.

With a better count, she said, "you can start developing much better heat wave early warning systems and target people who are at higher risk and make sure that they're aware of these risks."

Currently, about the only consistency in counting heat deaths in the U.S. is that officials and climate specialists acknowledge fatalities are grossly undercounted.

"Deaths are investigated in vastly different ways based on where a person died," said Dr. Greg Hess, the medical examiner for Pima County, Arizona's second most populous county and home to Tucson. "It should be no surprise that we don't have good nationwide data on heat-related deaths."

Many experts say a standard decades-old method known as counting excess deaths could better show how extreme heat harms people.

"You want to look at the number of people who would not have died during that time period and get a true sense of the magnitude of the impact," Ebi said, including people who would not have suffered a fatal heart attack or renal failure without the heat.

The excess deaths calculation is often used to estimate the death toll in natural disasters, with researchers tallying fatalities that exceeded those that occurred at the same time the previous year when circumstances were average.

Asia

N. Korean leader orders sharp increase in missile production

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un again toured major munitions factories and has ordered a drastic increase in production of missiles and other weapons, state media said Monday, as the South Korean and U.S. militaries announced they will begin major drills next week to hone their joint capability against the North's evolving nuclear threats.

Kim's push to produce more weapons also comes as U.S. officials believe Russia's defense minister recently talked with North Korea about selling more weapons to Russia for its war with Ukraine.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim visited factories producing tactical missiles, mobile launch platforms, armored vehicles and artillery shells on Friday and Saturday.

During a stop at the missile factory, Kim set a goal to "drastically boost" production capacity so the facility can mass produce missiles to meet the needs of front-line military units, KCNA said.

"The qualitative level of war preparations depends on the development of the munitions industry and the factory bears a very important responsibility in speeding up the war preparations of the (North) Korean People's Army," Kim said, according to the report.

Visiting other factories, Kim called for building more modern missile launch trucks and said there is an urgent need to boost production of large-caliber multiple rocket launcher shells "at an exponential rate," the report said. Kim also drove a new utility combat armored vehicle, KCNA said.

Kim has been focusing on enlarging his nuclear and missile arsenals since his high-stakes diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. Since the start of 2022, Kim's military has conducted more than 100 missile tests, many of them in the name of warning the U.S. and South Korean over their expansion of joint military training exercises. Many experts say Kim eventually aims to use his modernized weapons arsenals to wrest U.S. concessions, such as sanctions relief, whenever diplomacy resumes with Washington.

North Korea could perform more weapons tests soon as the U.S. and South Korea are set to start their summer military exercises next Monday. North Korea calls the U.S.-South Korean training a practice for an invasion. The allies say they have no intentions of attacking North Korea.

KCNA quoted Kim as saying North Korea must have "an overwhelming military force and get fully prepared for coping with any war" with the power to "surely annihilate" its enemies.

The U.S.-South Korean drills, called Ulchi Freedom Shield, is a computer-simulated command post exercise. During this year's exercise that is scheduled to run through until Aug. 31, the allies said they'll also conduct large-scale field training events, which will reportedly be the largest of their kind in recent years.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson, Lee Sung Joon, told reporters that this year's UFS drills are aimed at further strengthening the allies' response capabilities by performing exercises based on scenarios that reflect North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile capabilities and other regional security situations. Col. Isaac L. Taylor, a spokesperson for the U.S. military, told the same news conference that the drills are designed to be "a tough and realistic exercise."

Earlier this month, the White House said U.S. intelligence officials had determined that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu spoke to North Korean officials during a visit to Pyongyang last month about increasing the sale of munitions to Moscow for its war in Ukraine.

North Korea has denied American claims that it shipped artillery shells and ammunition to Russia.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Norwegian climber: Impossible to carry injured Pakistani porter down snowy K2

BERLIN (AP)—A record-setting Norwegian mountaineer pushed back Sunday against claims that she could have done more to save the life of a Pakistani porter who slipped off a narrow trail near the peak of the world's most treacherous mountain and died there after several hours. The circumstances of Mohammad Hassan's July 27 death on K2, the world's second-highest peak, sparked ongoing controversy, with two climbers arguing that he could have been saved if all those on the mountain that day had aborted their climb and focused on getting him down safely. The fallout from Hassan's death overshadowed a record established by Norwegian climber Kristin Harila and her Sherpa guide, Tenjin. By climbing K2 that day, they became the world's fastest climbers, scaling the world's 14 highest mountains in 92 days. Harila told The Associated Press on Sunday that "in the snowy condition we had up there that day, it wouldn't be possible to carry him down."

Official: Afghan universities ready to readmit women but not until Taliban leader says it's OK

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's universities are ready to readmit female students, but the ruling Taliban's leader has the ultimate say on when that might happen—if it happens at all, an education official said Saturday. The Taliban barred women from campuses last December, triggering global outrage. Girls had been banned from school beyond sixth grade soon after the Taliban returned to power in August 2021. Afghanistan is the only country in the world with bans on female education. Afghanistan's higher education minister, Nida Mohammed Nadim, said at the time the university ban was necessary to prevent the mixing of genders and because he believed some subjects being taught violated the principles of Islam. He said the ban, issued from the southern city of Kandahar by the Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, was in place until further notice. An adviser at the Higher Education Ministry, Molvi Abdul Jabbar, said universities were ready to readmit female students as soon as Akhundzada gives the order for the ban to be lifted. He was unable to say when or if that would happen. Akhundzada "ordered that the universities be closed, so they closed," he told The Associated Press. "When he says they are open, they will open the same day. All our leaders are in favor of (restarting girls' education), even our ministers are in favor of it."

World

7 killed in Kherson including baby girl

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Seven people—including a 23-day-old baby girl—were killed in Russian shelling in Ukraine's southern Kherson region on Sunday, the country's Internal Affairs Ministry said.

Artillery shelling in the village of Shiroka Balka, on the banks of the Dnieper River killed a family—a husband, wife, 12-year-old boy and 23-day-old girl—and another resident.

Two men were killed in the neighboring village of Stanislav, where a woman was also wounded.

The attack on Kherson province followed Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar's comments on Saturday attempting to quell rumors that Ukrainian forces had landed on the occupied left (east) bank of the Dnieper in the Kherson region.

"Again, the expert hype around the left bank in the Kherson region began. There are no reasons for excitement," she said.

Kherson regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said Sunday that three people had been wounded in Russian attacks on the province on Saturday.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian military officials said Saturday evening that Kyiv's forces had made progress in the south, claiming some success near a key village in the southern Zaporizhzhia region and capturing other unspecified territories.

AP

Friends of Daria Filipova, 34, hug each other at her funeral ceremony in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023.

Ukraine's General Staff said they had "partial success" around the tactically important Robotyne area in the Zaporizhzhia region, a key Russian stronghold that Ukraine needs to retake in order to continue pushing south towards Melitopol.

"There are liberated territories. The defense forces are working," General Oleksandr Tarnavskyi, commander of Ukraine's southern forces, said of the southern front.

Battles in recent weeks have taken place on multiple points along the over 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line as Ukraine wages a counteroffensive with Western-supplied weapons and Western-trained troops against Russian forces who invaded nearly 18 months ago.

Ukrainian troops have made only incremental gains since launching a counteroffensive in early June.

Meanwhile, a Russian warship on Sunday fired warning shots at a Palau-flagged cargo ship in the south-western Black Sea, the first time Russia has fired on a merchant ship beyond Ukraine since exiting a landmark UN-brokered grain deal last month.

According to Russia's Defense Ministry, the Sukru Okan was heading northwards to the Ukrainian Danube River port of Izmail.

Niger's junta gains upper hand over regional bloc against military force

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—One week after a deadline passed for mutinous soldiers in Niger to reinstate the country's ousted president or face military intervention, the junta has not acquiesced. No military action has been taken and the coup leaders appear to have gained the upper hand over the regional group that issued the threat, analysts say.

The West African bloc ECOWAS had given the soldiers that overthrew Niger's democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum until last Sunday to release and reinstate him or they threatened military action. On Thursday, the bloc ordered the deployment of a "standby" force to restore constitutional rule in Niger, with Nigeria, Benin, Senegal and Ivory Coast saying they would contribute troops.

But it's unclear when, how or if the troops will deploy. The move could take weeks or months to set into motion, and while the bloc decides what to do the junta is gaining power, some observers say.

"It looks as though the putschists have won and will stay ... The putschists are holding all the cards and have cemented their rule," said Ulf Laessing, head of the Sahel program at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a think tank.

ECOWAS is unlikely to intervene militarily and risk dragging Niger into civil war, he said, adding that ECOWAS and Western countries would instead likely press the junta to agree to a short transition period.

Europe and the United States will have little choice but to recognize the junta in order to continue the security cooperation in the region, Laessing said.

The July 26 coup is seen as a major blow to many Western nations, which viewed Niger as one of its last partners in the conflict-riddled Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert that they could work with to beat back a growing jihadi insurgency linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. The U.S. and France have more than 2,500 military personnel in the region and together with other European countries have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in military assistance and training Niger's forces.

There was still little clarity about what would happen days after ECOWAS announced the "standby" force deployment.

A meeting of the region's defense chiefs was postponed indefinitely. The African Union is expected to hold a meeting on Monday to discuss Niger's crisis. The group's Peace and Security Council could overrule the decision if it felt that wider peace and security on the continent were threatened by an intervention.

Overdrive

Auto review: 2023 Genesis G90 is … everything!

By MARC D. GROSSO
BOSTON HERALD

Giving credit where credit is due is very hard for some, but in Grasso's Garage we grant it almost on a monthly basis. This week, Genesis pulls in with their redesigned 2023 G90 E-Supercharger. This is one of the most exquisite vehicles on the market today.

Road noise is nonexistent, as the G90 boasts BMW and Mercedes type luxuries that deafen the noise significantly. With a base price tag of just under $100K, the Genesis G90 hands-down offers the most bang for the buck in the upscale luxury market. As the curves and sightlines are very good, the name plate still is a Hyundai Motor America product. The Genesis G90 is here and is a huge player in the upscale luxury market.

Self-closing doors, massaging seats, heads-up display and the 3.5T E-supercharger AWD packs a 3.5 Liter twin-turbo V-6 with an electric supercharger. Pushing 409 horsepower and 405 lb-ft of torque, the G90 means business. A great luxury cruiser to be chauffeured in or one that you drive daily, the S-class and 7-series are shaking in their boots as the Genesis will do some damage to their sales figures. I saw no lag in getting up to speed nor a struggle with braking as the G90 exceeds 6,100 pounds.

With all of the bells and whistles, the G90 has Genesis standard features as well that make it even more popular. Taking hints from Rolls-Royce and Bentley, we notice an array of upscale luxury standard features that only you can enjoy by either riding or driving. These include rear window shades, automatic door close when you step on the brake to start the car, exterior automatic door close and more. The seats deliver their own wow factor with ultra comfortable leather and nicely accented wood trim.

In Grasso's Garage, Genesis always has a home. Keeping upscale brands like Mercedes and BMW on their toes is the brand's top priority, all while delivering a great experience to the consumer.

NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Genesis G90
MSRP: $98,700
MPG: 17 city / 24 highway / 19.8 combined
As Tested: $100,370

TNS
The 2023 Genesis G90.

Ram 1500 pickup truck to get refresh next year

By BREANA NOBLE
THE DETROIT NEWS

PONTIAC, MI—The Ram 1500 pickup truck will be getting a refresh to launch in the first quarter of next year, said Tim Kuniskis, the Dodge CEO who stepped in a month ago to lead Stellantis NV's truck brand, as well.

The Sterling Heights-built truck has lost market share, now four model years out from the introduction of its latest generation, at 3.45% in the second quarter compared to 4.41% in 2019, according to Cox Automotive Inc. Competitors Ford Motor Co. launched the new F-150 last year, and General Motors Co.'s Chevrolet Corvette has gotten more recent refresh, as well. U.S. sales of the Ram pickups are down 9% in the first six months of the year, and inventory was rising.

Kuniskis said during Motor-Trends' Roadkill Nights Powered by Dodge that overall, though, sales in North America are up, and he expects the refresh to make moves: "We're at 70, 80 (days' supply) right now. After the refresh, we should see improvement in the days' supply."

The refreshed truck could be shown at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November alongside the all-electric Ram ProMaster commercial van, which will be Stellantis' first EV built in North America.

Kuniskis was intrigued to step into the Ram role after having spent time with Stellantis' other brands in North America from Alfa Romeo to Jeep. He says there's a lot of cross over between buyers of Dodges and Rams.

"You go to a Nascar event," he said, "and the parking lot is full of trucks."

In 2021 when Stellantis was created, CEO Carlos Tavares said each brand and division would have its own CEO. Kuniskis admits he couldn't abandon the brotherhood of muscle: "I probably should have, but I didn't want to let it go."

In addition to a similar audience, the brands also face a common challenge: the move to electrification. Not only are there obstacles like the cost of batteries and the availability of charging infrastructure, Kuniskis said the focus is on showing customers the advantages of electric powertrains.

The Ram 1500 REV revealed earlier this year that launches in the fourth quarter of 2024 will offer 500 miles of range, a 110-mile charge in 10 minutes, up to 14,000 pounds of towing and up to 2,700 pounds of payload, according to the automaker.

All of the details on the all-electric muscle car hasn't been shared, but it won't be too far from the Dodge Charger Daytona Banshee concept introduced last year. The first two base models will have a 400-volt system. The base 340-kilowatt trim offers 455 horsepower. Available after-sales Direction Connection kits then would boost that to 370 kilowatts with 495 horsepower and 400 kilowatts with 535 horsepower.

The next trim up starts at 440 kilowatts with 590 horsepower. That increases to 470 kilowatts with 630 horsepower at the first stage and 500 kilowatts with 670 horsepower at the second. The top trim will be an 800-volt Banshee system, and the company is waiting to share details on its output.

The brand hasn't shared where either vehicle will be built. The details could be shared in L.A., Kuniskis said, though it will depend on negotiations with the United Auto Workers and its Canadian counterpart, Unifor.

Also dependent on those talks could be whether customers get the "last call" Dodge muscle cars they ordered. Production of the gas-powered Charger and Challenger end in Ontario's Brampton Assembly Plant at the end of the year when the plant is set to be retooled for a flexible vehicle platform that could support EVs. In the event of a strike by Unifor members there, some vehicles may not get built.

At the back of the line are customers who paid over the $96,666 manufacturer's suggest retail price for the Dodge Challenger Demon 170. That's about 40% of customers, Kuniskis said: "The market sets the price."

Sometimes, truck just wants to be taken for a ride

Q: The service engine light came on in my truck, then next day off, then on again. My mechanic checked it out and up came a code he had never seen. He looks it up and it states engine has not been running enough to perform computer check. He took it out for a long ride, checked again, and it was OK. Yes, I live in a retirement home and I'm an 81-year-old former shade tree mechanic. I guess I need to drive it more.

—K.B., Crete, Illinois

A: You guessed right. Sometimes there is a pending code. It may occur if there was an intermittent problem seen by the computer. Occasionally driving the vehicle a few times may clear the pending code. Sometimes the vehicle must be driven in both city and highway trips including slowing and accelerating.

■ ■ ■

Q: I usually change my own oil on my 2004 Toyota Tundra (mileage 95,000) but went to the local Toyota dealer to have this done in conjunction with other minor work. I requested high-mileage oil. The dealership service department said that it's really a gimmick to extract more money from customers They installed the standard full synthetic 5W-30. Obviously, no harm was done, but I had never heard such a comment, and from a Toyota service department, no less.

—J.B., La Fox, Illinois

A: They don't stock it. You got a song and dance about the oil being a gimmick. Older engines may have seals and gaskets that are less pliable than new and may benefit from the additive packages in high-mileage oils.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2022 Kia Niro Hybrid with 22,000 miles on it. The engine light came on with a message to check the active air flap system. We are going to have a new one put in, but the dealer says this may have happened because of an accident we were in several months ago. Does it make sense that this system malfunctioned so long after the accident and why would the repair shop not have found it back then? Your help is appreciated.

—J.F. , Chicopee, Massachusetts

A: The active air flap is normally open until the vehicle reaches a set speed. If it were damaged during an accident, it would not have worked for long. A foreign object getting stuck in it may have caused the problem.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2012 Toyota Highlander Limited (only 45,000 miles) and my electronic key fob is going out. The dealer wants $700 to fix this, which I think is high.

—B.K. Edina, Minnesota

A: The replacement price you were quoted sounds a bit high. However, the key must also be programmed and cut. Call a couple other Toyota dealers as well as some locksmiths. But you may only need a new battery for the key fob. The batteries are cheap.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2019 Kia Sportage with around 50,000 miles. Is there something I can do to reduce the road noise? It drowns out the radio unless I really turn up the volume.

—F.K., Chicago

A: Road noise is almost always caused by tires. At 50,000 miles they are approaching the end of life. They may also be worn unevenly. Tire makers offer a wide selection including tires that are low on noise. Touring tires may be what you need. If you also want a bit more performance, select a grand touring tire.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

‘Barbie’ has legs: Greta Gerwig’s film tops box office again

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Barbie” has legs. Director Greta Gerwig ‘s film phenomenon remained a runaway No. 1 at the box office in its fourth week, bringing in $33.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Margot Robbie-led and produced film from Warner Bros., still in 4,137 theaters, refused to drop off as most box-office toppers have this year, surpassing $500 million in North America overall a week after it crossed the $1 billion mark globally — a record for a female director.

The second half of the “Barbenheimer” duo, “Oppenheimer,” returned to the No. 2 spot in its own fourth week after a week at No. 3 overall. The Christopher Nolan-directed film from Universal Pictures brought in $18.8 million from 3,761 locations for an overall domestic total of $264.3 million.

The top pair had thin competition. The week’s only major wide release, Universal’s “The Last Voyage of the Demeter,” finished fifth with a $6.5 million opening weekend.

AP

The marquee of the Los Feliz Theatre features the films “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer,” Friday, July 28, 2023, in Los Angeles.

“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem,” in its second week, earned $15.6 million domestically for third place, and the Jason Statham shark sequel, “Meg 2: The Trench,” brought in $12.7 million, dropping from second to fifth in its second week in theaters.

“Barbie” is poised to become 2023’s top film. Its $526.3 million domestic total and $1.18 billion global bankroll currently sits second behind “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” which earned $574.2 million North America, and $1.358 billion globally in the spring. It’s also the second-highest grossing film in the history of “Warner Bros.,” behind only 2011’s “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.”

The sustained performance of the Mattel movie continues to flip the script on what had been a weak year in theaters, with major sequels underperforming including “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny” and “Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part I,” which remained in the top 10 this week with $4.7 million.

“‘Barbie’ is as hot a commodity as it was in its first week. It’s just ensconced at the No. 1 spot, and I don’t know if it’s going anywhere soon,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “And Oppenheimer right there with it. They’re just drafting off each other in this box office NASCAR race.”

The midsummer “Barbenheimer” put the industry-wide summer total ahead of 2022. It was lagging behind just a month ago.

“If you think of what ‘Barbie’ and ‘Oppenheimer’ together — just those two movies — have contributed in these weekends at the box office, it’s really a staggering number,” Dergarabedian said.

All movies combined this summer have earned $3.63 billion in North America. With significant releases remaining in August, including DC Comics’ “Blue Beetle,” the video game adaptation “Gran Turismo,” and the Denzel Washington sequel “The Equalizer 3,” the box office has a chance of reaching the $4 billion that was considered a domestic benchmark for a strong summer before the pandemic.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **“Barbie,”** *$33.7 million.*
2. **“Oppenheimer,”** *$18.8 million.*
3. **“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem,”** *$15.6 million.*
4. **“Meg 2: The Trench,”** *$12.7 million.*
5. **“The Last Voyage of the Demeter,”** *$6.5 million.*
6. **“Haunted Mansion,”** *$5.6 million.*
7. **“Talk to Me,”** *$5.1 million.*
8. **“Sound of Freedom,”** *$4.8 million.*
9. **“Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part I,”** *$4.7 million.*
10. **“Jailer,”** *2.6 million.*

Miss Universe cuts ties with Indonesian organizer

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The Miss Universe Organization has cut its ties with its Indonesian franchisee and will cancel an upcoming pageant in Malaysia after contestants complained to police, accusing local organizers of sexual harassment.

The New York-based organization said in a statement late Saturday it had decided to sever ties with PT Capella Swastika Karya, and its National Director, Poppy Capella.

Six contestants of a Miss Universe Indonesia pageant recently filed complaints with police, accusing local organizers of asking them to strip to their underwear for “body checks” for scars or cellulite, in a room with about two dozen people present, including men. Five of the contestants said they were then photographed topless.

“In light of what we have learned took place at Miss Universe Indonesia, it has become clear that this franchise has not lived up to our brand standards and ethics,” the Miss Universe Organization said on the social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

The organization also said it would be cancelling this year’s Miss Universe Malaysia as the Indonesian franchisee also holds the license for the pageant. It said it would make arrangements for the Indonesia 2023 title holder to compete in Miss Universe pageant to be held in El Salvador late this year.

The Miss Universe Indonesia pageant was held from July 29 to Aug. 3 to choose Indonesia’s representative to the 2023 Miss Universe contest, and was won by Fabienne Nicole Groeneveld.

PT Capella Swastika Karya is an Indonesian beauty company which took over the license for Miss Universe Indonesia in March from Yayasan Putri Indonesia or YPI, an Indonesian foundation that held the license for 30 years.

The company founder, Poppy Capella, denied her involvement in the physical examination during the contest and said that she is against any kind of “violence and sexual harassment.”

“I, as the National Director and as the owner of the Miss Universe Indonesia license, was not involved at all and have never known, ordered, requested or allowed anyone who played a role and participated in the Miss Universe Indonesia 2023 process to commit violence or sexual harassment through body checking,” she posted on social media late Saturday.

Hengki Haryadi, the Jakarta police director for general crimes, said Sunday that during a Miss Universe Indonesia pageant held in the capital, Jakarta, from July 29 to Aug. 3, the victims were forced to remove their clothes and were photographed naked for physical examination in a hotel ballroom.

Husband's ambivalence about a baby leaves wife high and dry

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 10 years. When we tried to have kids for the first time, we discovered I have polycystic ovary syndrome. We quit trying when the doctor visits became more than we could afford. We tried again after my husband saw a movie that moved him emotionally. Nothing came from that, so we stopped trying again.

I always assumed we’d give it a go one last time, but now my husband says he doesn’t want a kid right now and may never want one. He did say that if we wound up pregnant, he’d be fine with it. He also said he’d be terrified at first, but he’d settle into emergency mode and handle it.

Abby, I don’t know what to do. I most likely won’t get pregnant without a fertility specialist, but my husband made it clear he’s not into trying to have a baby. He’d only be fine with a baby if it “just happened.” What do I do?

EMPTY ARMS IN TEXAS

DEAR EMPTY ARMS: Your husband doesn’t sound like a man who is yearning for fatherhood. Quite the opposite. The likelihood of your “just happening” to become pregnant is nil without medical intervention. There is no compromise here. If the two of you are going to be able to stay together, you should be talking about this with a licensed counselor so you can discuss whether options other than you conceiving a baby are acceptable.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am by nature a pretty friendly, jovial kind of person. I take people as I find them and try not to pass judgment on anyone until I get to know them at least a little. Lately, more and more often, people, even ones I’ve known for years, have begun saying critical and, frankly, rude things to me. I don’t think I have said anything to them that could be construed as offensive. I do know I’m somewhat outspoken and can be a little opinionated, though. Could my easygoing jocularity somehow make people think it’s OK to be rude to me? I have ended several friendships for this reason. I don’t want to stifle myself. I want to continue being friendly and outgoing, but I’m not sure how to do that without being further insulted. Have people become so shallow that they only respect others who are reserved or even hostile? That’s a sad world to contemplate.

GOOD GUY IN HAWAII

DEAR GOOD GUY: The next time this happens, ask the person why they reacted the way they did and whether you offended them in some way. If their opinion is different from yours, you should listen. In recent years, civility has taken a beating and people have become polarized and less tolerant of opinions that differ from their own. I think we learn by listening to others, and if we lose that ability, our society will have lost something very important.

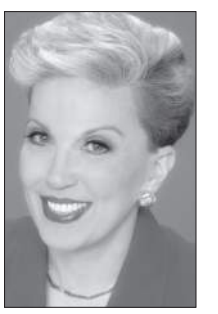
■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

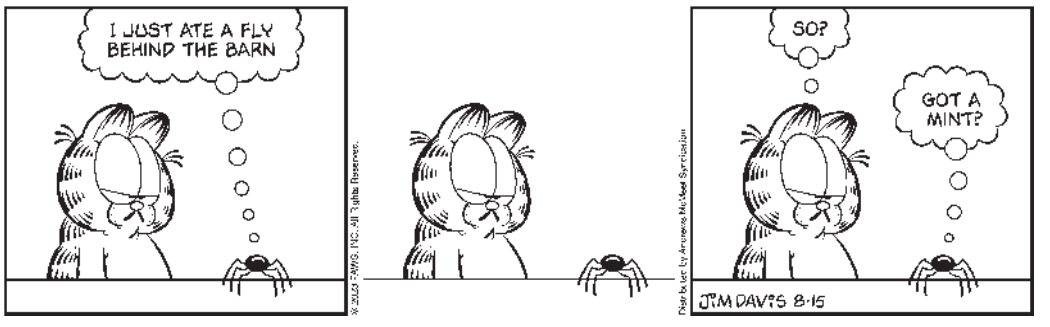
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YOU CAN'T TRUST A GIRL TO DO ANYTHING RIGHT! WE GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO LURE SUSIE INTO A TRAP, AND SHE DOESN'T SHOW UP!
AS SOON AS I FIND OUT WHERE SHE IS, I'LL GET HOBBES AND THE WATER BALLOONS AND WE'LL LET HER HAVE IT!
IF SHE WON'T COME TO THE AMBUSH, WE'LL BRING THE AMBUSH TO HER!
FIVE... FOUR... THREE... TWO...

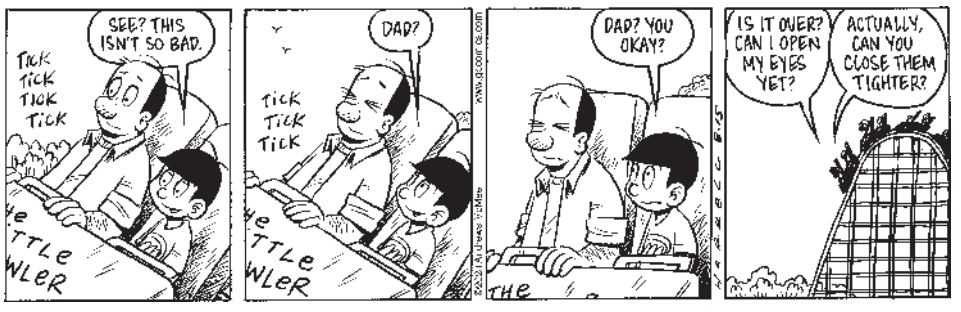
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



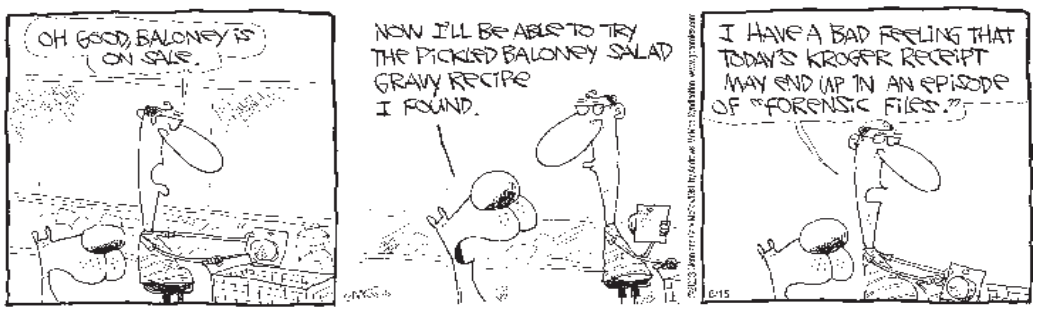
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SEE? THIS ISN'T SO BAD.
TICK TICK TICK TICK
DAD?
TICK TICK TICK
DAD? YOU OKAY?
IS IT OVER? CAN I OPEN MY EYES YET?
ACTUALLY, CAN YOU CLOSE THEM TIGHTER?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


OH GOOD, BALONEY IS ON SALE.
NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO TRY THE PICKLED BALONEY SALAD GRAVY RECIPE I FOUND.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING THAT TODAY'S KROGER RECEIPT MAY END UP IN AN EPISODE OF "FORENSIC FILES."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wild party
5 United nations
9 Enervate
12 Dayton's state
13 Count counterpart
14 "Exodus" hero
15 California city
17 Set afire
18 Picnic interlopers
19 Asia's — Peninsula
21 Viola bow application
24 Mimic
25 Lab gel
26 Barbecue serving
30 Under the weather
31 Dons
32 Journalist Tarbell
33 "Can I lend a hand?"
35 Biblical land
36 Lost traction
37 Skating jumps
38 Bacon unit
40 Sediment
42 CBS logo
43 Japanese bar food
48 Smartphone download
49 Part of A.D.
50 Desertlike
51 "Mayday!"
52 Trace of smoke
53 Author Bellow

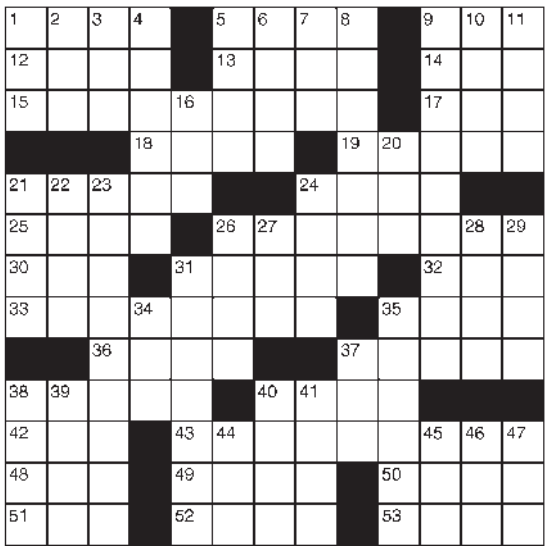
DOWN

1 Derek and Diddley
2 "Caught ya!"
3 Go astray
4 Empty talk
5 Ernie's pal
6 Cambodia neighbor
7 Choice words?
8 Makes a racket
9 First American woman in space
10 Met melody
11 Compassion
16 New England cape
20 Mimic
21 Picnic spoiler
22 Leer at
23 Account execs
24 Kvetch
26 Burpee buy
27 Crony
28 Fan fave
29 Loud noises
31 Two-person cutter
34 Roman 551
35 Additional items
37 Boxing legend
38 Salty waters
39 Glitch in print
40 Taxpayer IDs
41 Denny's rival
44 Half of bi-
45 Singer Rita
46 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
47 "Bad" cholesterol

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	L	D	A	■	C	C	O	■	A	L	A	S
S	O	U	R	P	U	S	S	■	I	A	R	P
I	G	O	T	O	R	I	O	■	L	U	N	A
■	■	■	I	M	O	■	L	C	A	D	E	R
S	Y	R	U	P	■	G	F	T	S	■	■	■
G	E	A	R	■	I	N	M	A	T	E	S	■
T	A	N	■	S	N	A	I	■	■	T	H	E
■	R	I	S	O	T	T	O	■	S	C	O	T
■	■	■	A	M	A	S	■	E	T	H	O	S
N	U	T	M	E	G	■	O	I	F	■	■	■
O	R	S	O	■	L	C	T	H	A	R	I	C
R	I	P	A	■	I	N	T	I	M	A	T	E
A	S	S	N	■	O	C	O	■	S	P	E	D

Yesterday's answer 8-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Lawrence, 33; Joe Jonas, 34; Anthony Anderson, 53; Debra Messing, 55.

Happy Birthday: Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself until you have tested and refined what you have to offer. Preparation will make the difference this year, and a pristine presentation will get you where you want to go. Pay attention to detail, and you'll surpass your expectations. A vivid imagination and educated approach to life will fuel your inspiration and separate you from the competition. Your numbers are 4, 17, 22, 27, 34, 43, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Show everyone what you have to offer. Mix business with pleasure, and follow through with your promises. Consistency and delivering on your promises will enrich your chance to advance. A little pampering will give you the pick-me-up you need to forge ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Think before you act. The temptation to give away too much information will make you vulnerable. Be a good listener and pay attention to detail, and you'll figure out the best way to get what you want. Leave nothing to chance. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick to the truth and offer a play-by-play version. Keep your feelings to yourself and control your emotions. Don't expect help, and avoid disappointment. Alter what isn't working for you and head in a direction that accommodates your plans. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your emotions in check. Refuse to let the little things get to you. Focus on being creative and initiating what you want instead of letting what others do disrupt your plans. Follow your heart, pay attention to detail and make things happen. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep things moving forward instead of flipping back and forth between making headway and standing still. Have confidence in yourself and act accordingly. If you give in to what others do or say, you'll lose sight of what you want to accomplish. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Say what's on your mind and be the one to make a difference. Now is not the time to follow the crowd. Have a plan ready and be open-minded enough to adjust to suggestions from others. Do what's right and best for everyone. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Your attraction to the in-crowd can devastate your emotional, physical and financial well-being. Think a scenario through before you participate in something that borders on misrepresentation. Walking a fine line can result in falling off the fence. Do what's right. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Temptation is the enemy, and truth matters. Look around you and align yourself with someone who possesses common sense, integrity and positivity. Choose to make good choices and help others do the same. Set a worthwhile example and you'll have no regrets. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Let your actions speak for you. What you say or promise will be misconstrued, causing confusion and an outcome that can cost you. Deliver promises and go above and beyond the call of duty, and rewards will follow. Make peace and love your priorities. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a stance, offer alternatives and participate in conversations that provide positive results. Make contributions at home and to foundations that support your beliefs, and be a part of the movement to make your house and community a better place. Make stability a priority. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Understanding your circumstances is half the battle. Dig deep and ask questions, and you'll get a fair assessment. Making the right decision will be difficult but necessary to maintain your integrity. Self-improvement will contribute to your visibility and success. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't limit what you can do. Discipline, using your resources and sharing your vision will help you build a strong front for what you propose. Don't hold back or let close-mindedness come between you and the possibilities you can turn into a reality. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, possessive and articulate. You are imaginative and unique.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8		4		3		
	4		2	6	5	9	8	
		5	8	9		2	4	
4		3		8				
			6	2	9		3	
8	9						1	
		6					7	4
	1	9		7	2		6	
			3		6	1		9

Difficulty: ★★ 8/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	8	5	6	7	4	9	2	3
4	2	7	5	9	3	8	6	1
6	9	3	8	2	1	7	5	4
9	4	6	2	3	7	5	1	8
7	3	8	1	5	9	2	4	6
5	1	2	4	8	6	3	9	7
8	5	1	3	6	2	4	7	9
3	6	9	7	4	5	1	8	2
2	7	4	9	1	8	6	3	5

Difficulty: ★ 8/14

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

NORTH AMERICAN FINCHES Solution: 6 letters

C	L	S	R	E	H	T	A	E	F	S	P	E	E	D
A	A	L	M	E	A	D	O	W	U	E	G	D	O	L
S	L	L	I	T	I	C	A	N	A	D	A	W	T	A
K	N	B	I	B	R	N	F	(T)	D	C	R	A	H	E
C	I	B	E	F	S	L	S	(R)	T	E	D	T	G	T
I	A	E	G	R	O	S	B	(E)	A	K	E	E	I	A
H	T	L	G	W	T	R	O	(E)	C	L	N	R	R	R
C	N	P	E	A	C	A	N	R	S	T	P	F	B	G
N	U	R	R	R	M	L	A	I	C	O	S	I	G	I
I	O	U	O	E	G	U	S	R	A	T	C	E	N	M
F	M	P	X	R	D	K	L	I	T	S	H	L	I	E
D	S	I	A	D	I	P	C	P	A	M	I	D	N	D
L	C	S	G	N	I	W	O	A	I	A	R	S	E	I
O	S	L	E	A	V	E	S	L	L	L	P	C	V	U
G	Y	N	O	L	O	C	Y	E	L	L	O	W	E	M

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Mullins robs homer in 9th, goes deep in 10th as Orioles beat Mariners

SEATTLE (AP)—Cedric Mullins robbed Ty France of a homer in the ninth inning and hit a two-run homer in the 10th, and the AL-best Baltimore Orioles beat the Seattle Mariners in extra innings for the second straight day, 5-3 on Sunday.

Mullins, who entered in the sixth as a defensive replacement, leaped and reached over the wall in center field to snag France's deep drive off Mike Baumann.

Two pitches later, Dominic Canzone hit a 96 mph fastball from Baumann 402 feet to right to tie the game at 3-all.

In the 10th, Mullins hit a long drive just outside the right-field foul pole on a 2-1 pitch from Trent Thornton (0-1) and then, two pitches later, sent a drive over the wall in right to score automatic runner Gunnar Henderson.

Nick Vespi (1-1) got the final out in the ninth and Shintaro Fujinami worked a scoreless 10th for his first save.

AP

Baltimore Orioles' Jorge Mateo (3) and Cedric Mullins, right, celebrate after a win over the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023, in Seattle.

MARLINS 8, YANKEES 7

MIAMI (AP)—Jake Burger's game-ending single capped a five-run, ninth-inning comeback against Clay Holmes and Tommy Kahnle, giving Miami the win over struggling New York.

The Yankees, who led 7-1 in the sixth inning behind ace Gerrit Cole, dropped five games back of the AL's last wild card berth and are on track to miss the playoffs for the first time since 2016. New York is 3-8-1 in its last 12 series and has lost six straight rubber games of three-game series.

Burger, who had three hits, cut the deficit to 7-2 with an RBI single in the sixth off Cole.

Holmes (4-3), who had given up three runs in 35 games since May 6, allowed Yuli Gurriel's double leading off the ninth. Nick Fortes singled, Jazz Chisholm Jr. walked and Josh Bell hit a one-hopper that bounced off Holmes' glove and went to the third-base side. The reliever gloved the ball and rushed a throw past first for an error as Gurriel and Fortes scored.

Luis Arraez's triple made it 7-7. Kahnle relieved and walked Bryan De La Cruz. Burger then lined a single to left.

Jorge López (6-2) pitched a scoreless ninth to get the win before 35,043, the Marlins' season high at home.

TWINS 3, PHILLIES 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Sonny Gray tossed two-hit ball over six shutout innings, reliever Caleb Thielbar pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh and Jordan Luplow homered to lead Minnesota past Philadelphia.

The AL Central leaders bounced back from a 13-2 loss in the series opener to win the last two games. Gray (6-5) struck out seven and pitched into the sixth inning in his eighth straight start.

Emilio Pagán retired the last two batters in the eighth and Jhoan Durán worked the ninth for his 21st save.

The Phillies finished 6-4 on a 10-game homestand that kept them in first place in the NL wild-card standings. Ranger Suarez (2-6) allowed Ludlow's two-out homer in the first and Jorge Polanco's RBI single in the third.

ANGELS 2, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit his AL-leading 41st homer and Los Angeles beat Houston to avoid a three-game sweep.

Ohtani's first home run since Aug. 3 put the Angels up 2-0 in the sixth inning.

Chase Silseth (4-1) allowed four hits and struck out five in five scoreless innings. Carlos Estévez struck out two in the ninth for his 25th save.

Houston's José Urquidy (2-3) yielded three hits and one run in five-plus innings in his second start since returning from the injured list.

GIANTS 3, RANGERS 2, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Patrick Bailey hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning and San Francisco overcame a blown save by All-Star Camilo Doval, beating Texas to stop a four-game skid.

The Giants, who struck out a season-high 17 times, had lost six of seven. Texas had won 10 of 11.

Logan Webb was within one out of his second shutout this season when J.P. Martinez doubled on his 107th and final pitch. Martinez was running on Doval's second pitch and scored from second when Ezequiel Duran grounded to shortstop and beat Brandon Crawford's throw for an infield hit.

Duran started the 10th as the automatic runner, advanced on a bloop single by Josh Smith and scored on a balk by Doval (4-3), who blew a save for the fourth time in 37 chances.

With Wilmer Flores on second as the automatic runner in the bottom half, Bailey homered with two outs off Will Smith (1-4), who blew a save for the third time in 25 chances.

NATIONALS 8, ATHLETICS 7

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jeter Downs capped a six-run ninth with an RBI single, and Washington rallied past Oakland to complete a three-game sweep.

Washington has won eight of 11 overall and 12 of its last 14 at home.

Rookie Zack Gelof homered twice for majors-worst Oakland, which fell 52 games under .500 (33-85) for the first time since going 54-108 in 1979. The A's were swept for the 16th time this year.

Oakland closer Trevor May loaded the bases with one out in the ninth before allowing Stone Garrett's RBI single and Ildemaro Vargas' sacrifice fly. May exited after walking Riley Adams to reload the bases, and Kirby Snead (1-1) entered and walked pinch-hitter Dominic Smith to force in a run that made it 7-5.

Alex Call then hit a sharp grounder that shortstop Nick Allen booted for an error, allowing two runs to score. Downs floated a base hit to center to cap the unlikely comeback.

Joe La Sorsa (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for Washington for his first major league victory.

BLUE JAYS 11, CUBS 4

TORONTO (AP)—Daulton Varsho homered and had five RBIs, Hyun Jin Ryu pitched five innings to win for the first time since returning from elbow surgery, and Toronto beat Chicago to avoid a three-game sweep.

Whit Merrifield had four hits, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had two hits and two RBIs and Brandon Belt reached base four times as the Blue Jays snapped a three-game skid.

The Cubs lost for the seventh time in 25 games.

Varsho hit a three-run home run off Jameson Taillon (7-7) in Toronto's five-run second inning, then added a two-run single off righty Hayden Wesneski in the fourth.

Ryu (1-1) allowed two unearned runs and two hits.

DODGERS 8, ROCKIES 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Julio Urías matched his career high with 12 strikeouts over seven innings of four-hit ball, and Miguel Rojas homered and drove in four runs as Los Angeles won its season-high eighth straight and completed a four-game sweep of Colorado.

Mookie Betts broke it open with a two-run double in the sixth for the Dodgers, who have won 12 of 13 to surge 8 1/2 games ahead of San Francisco in the race for their 10th NL West title in 11 seasons. Rojas matched his season high in RBIs by driving in one run in each of his four plate appearances.

Urías (10-6) struck out seven consecutive Rockies and eight of nine during his final three innings of work.

Alan Trejo hit a two-run homer for the Rockies, who have lost five straight. Kyle Freeland (4-13) yielded six hits and four runs over five innings.

RED SOX 6, TIGERS 3

BOSTON (AP)—Adam Duvall had four RBIs that included a three-run homer, Justin Turner added a solo shot Boston beat Detroit.

Trevor Story went 4 for 4 with three doubles and two stolen bases for Boston. Connor Wong had an RBI triple and Duvall added a run-scoring single.

Boston scored six runs over five innings against former Red Sox lefty Eduardo Rodriguez (8-6).

Coming off the injured list, Garrett Whitlock (5-3) allowed an unearned run in two hitless innings and Kenley Jansen worked around a lead-off single in the ninth for his 27th save in 30 chances.

BREWERS 7, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Carlos Santana hit a three-run homer, Freddy Peralta pitched six scoreless innings, and Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep of Chicago.

The Brewers pushed their NL Central lead to 3 1/2 games over the Chicago Cubs.

Peralta (9-8) scattered four hits and struck out six while walking three for his third straight victory.

Dylan Cease (5-6) gave up two runs in seven innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, PADRES 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a tying, two-run homer in the seventh inning, Alek Thomas hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth against Robert Suarez (1-2), and Arizona rallied past sinking San Diego.

The D-backs (59-59) took two of three from the Padres (56-62) with both teams hanging around the fringe of the NL wild-card race. San Diego has lost six of seven.

Gurriel came in for Jose Herrera and hit a full-count changeup from Nick Martinez over the wall in left for the first pinch-hit homer of his career.

Kyle Nelson (6-3) got the last out of the eighth for Arizona. Paul Sewald worked the ninth for his second save in two days.

GUARDIANS 9, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Tanner Bibee won his seventh consecutive decision and Cleveland beat Tampa Bay to avoid a three-game sweep.

Bibee (9-2) gave up two runs, seven hits and struck out five in seven innings.

Andrés Giménez and Gabriel Arias homered for the Guardians, who had 15 hits.

Rays starter Zach Eflin (12-7), seeking to become the AL's first 13-game winner, allowed a season-high six runs and nine hits over three innings in an 82-pitch outing.

METS 7, BRAVES 6

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Ortega had two hits during a six-run fifth inning, and New York beat majors-best Atlanta to avoid falling into last place in the NL East.

The Mets were outscored 34-3 in the first three games of the series.

Kodai Senga (9-6) allowed three runs and whiffed seven in six innings.

Matt Olson pulled the Braves within a run with his major league-leading 43rd homer, a two-run shot in the eighth. Drew Smith got the final out of the eighth and Adam Ottavino worked the ninth for his seventh save.

Yonny Chirinos (5-5) gave up six runs in 4 2/3 innings.

PIRATES 4, REDS 2, GAME 1
REDS 6, PIRATES 5, 10 INNINGS, GAME 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Stuart Fairchild drove in the tying run in the eighth inning and the go-ahead run in the 10th, helping Cincinnati split a doubleheader against Pittsburgh.

Jared Triolo hit his first major league home run in the opener, a three-run drive as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning. Cincinnati had lost nine of 11 before winning the nightcap.

Pittsburgh's Bryan Reynolds homered twice in the night game, raising his season total to 17. Rookie Elly De La Cruz homered for the Reds.

Automatic runner Tyler Stephenson advanced to third on TJ Hopkins' one-out single in the 10th off Osvaldo Bido (2-3). Fairchild grounded to shortstop Liover Peguero, who threw to Triolo at second for a forceout, but Fairchild beat the throw to first and avoided a double play as Stephenson scored.

Alexis Díaz (4-4) pitched a perfect ninth, and Daniel Durate got his first big league save.

In the opener, Triolo homered off Alex Young (4-1). Angel Perdomo (3-2) pitched a hitless seventh. David Bednar worked the ninth for his 24th save in 27 chances.

Indigenous communities are embraced at Women's World Cup

» But will the legacy live on?

AP

Maori perform a traditional welcome ceremony ahead of the Women's World Cup Group G soccer match between Argentina and Sweden in Hamilton, New Zealand, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—More than any previous tournament, the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand has leaned into both including and showcasing the Indigenous cultures of both nations.

For some Indigenous groups, though, there's not enough commitment to a more lasting legacy.

This Women's World Cup was the first hosted by two countries. FIFA, led by a panel of six Indigenous women, worked with both countries to make sure the Australia's First Nations and New Zealand's Maori cultures were included.

For the first time at a World Cup, all of the nine host cities were referred to in both English and Indigenous terms in the FIFA materials surrounding the event, including website content, signage and broadcasts.

Soccer organizers in Australia and New Zealand successfully pushed to have Indigenous flags flying at stadiums. In New Zealand a traditional karanga call was performed ahead of each match, while in Australia the pre-game ceremonies included a welcome to country by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander elders.

FIFA executives had cultural awareness training in the run-up to the World Cup and the players attended traditional ceremonies when they arrived. The United States was among eight teams that participated in Auckland.

"I don't think we've ever had a cultural welcome like that in any of the places we've had a World Cup before," American defender Kelley O'Hara said. "I know how special it is for the New Zealand players, for the Australian players, for the people of New Zealand and Australia. I'm really good friends with (Ferns defender) Ali Riley, she has so much pride in the fact that this tournament is being played in New Zealand."

Spain's team caused a stir before the tournament when they mocked the haka in a video posted to social media. Captain Ivana Andres later apologized to elders and members of the Rangitane O Manawatu iwi (tribe) at a ceremony in the North Island city of Palmerston North, where the team was based during the group stage.

"Their words came from the heart and there was an acknowledgement that they understood that the haka is very precious, not only to Maori but to all of Aotearoa," Iwi representative Professor Meihana Durie said.

In New Zealand there has been an increasing effort overall to honor the culture. It is common to refer to the country as Aotearoa, which means "land of the long white cloud." The greeting Kia Ora is a common greeting at restaurants and shops.

FIFA's head of women's soccer, Sarai Bareman, is of Dutch and Samoan descent and was raised in New Zealand.

"I can't even remember the number of conversations that I've had until today with people who have come from overseas, who have commented about how special it is to have a `Welcome to Country' in First Nations and in Maori when the teams are coming onto the field," Bareman said. "People think that is so special, and it is, and it's so unique. And how amazing that these two beautiful cultures are being shown, literally, to the entire globe."

While the inclusion during the tournament has been lauded, First Nations groups have questioned Australia's Legacy 23 plan that seeks to grow women's soccer in Australia beyond the World Cup.

Indigenous Football Australia's council sent a letter to FIFA last month decrying the lack of commitment to Indigenous-led soccer organizations going forward.

"Despite ubiquitous Indigenous culture, symbolism, traditional ceremonies and installations at the World Cup and the holding out of Indigenous culture as something of central value to football, not a single dollar from the legacy program has been committed to organizations that are Indigenous-led," the letter said. "Without support for the Indigenous community and their programs, we consider this symbolism empty."

The foundation set up by John Moriarty, the first Indigenous player for Australia's national team, launched a GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign to support the work it is doing through soccer with First Nations children in remote communities.

Football Australia said support and advancement of Indigenous football programs were integral parts of the sport's national commitment, supported by its National Indigenous Advisory Group.

But IFA council member Ros Moriarty said the response to the letter "doesn't address our concerns with what we see as contraventions of FIFA's own human rights statutes for self determination for indigenous peoples."

"It's the Indigenous-led grassroots football programming and movement that we're part of that we're looking to see recognition of," she said. "But, as importantly, we're looking to understand how part of the legacy fund is going to be directed to programs such as ours that have been delivering for a long time, and carrying the heavy weight of football in Australia for Indigenous people."

Veteran goalkeeper Lydia Williams and playmaker Kyah Simons are Indigenous players on the Matildas' World Cup roster. Ros Moriarty said the relative lack of young Indigenous players coming into the top national soccer teams was evidence the "pipeline" and engagement needed more attention.

"It seems to us, that a World Cup on our shores that ignores the movement that Australia has experienced toward acknowledging and recognizing Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander self-determination ... without a (specific) allocation from this legacy fund, is tone deaf," she said.

New Zealand's program is Aotearoa United: Legacy Starts Now. The soccer federation also partnered with Maori Football Aotearoa and Sport New Zealand to develop a school program aimed at increasing participation in sports for young girls from different backgrounds, including Indigenous communities.

"The Sport continues to grow, as you see it's the most participated sport in the country. We are aided by the growth of futsal, which just can't stop growing as well," said Andrew Pragnell, CEO of New Zealand Football. "We've got to make sure we continue to make sure our environments are well connected and that they're supporting as many young people to join the sport from all walks of life as possible."

Renard already plotting Olympic revenge after losing to Australia

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Hervé Renard walked away from the narrowest of Women's World Cup quarterfinal exits and immediately started plotting France's next opportunity to avenge a loss to Australia.

Co-host Australia held fifth-ranked France 0-0 in regulation and extra time and then won 7-6 in a penalty shootout on Saturday in Brisbane. The Australians advanced to the semifinals for the first time and will next face European champion England.

Renard's French lineup will go home, their attention already turned to the Olympics starting next July 26 in Paris.

"Now we have to look forward," Renard said. "We're organizing the Olympic Games in Paris. So, we're awaiting for you. We'll have our revenge!"

The French will definitely be there as hosts, but Australia hasn't completed Asian qualifying. Still, the sentiment is all the same.

In March, Renard replaced Corinne Diacre as head coach of a French women's team that was in turmoil. Captain Wendie Renard was considering skipping the World Cup and a host of senior players seemingly weren't in the frame for selection.

He rebuilt the squad, recalling the likes of leading scorer Eugenie Le Sommer, topped Group F with wins over Braziland Panama, and then trounced Morocco 4-0 in the round of 16.

With those victories, the well-traveled Renard became the first head coach to win games at both the women's and men's World Cups. His upset victory with Saudi Arabia over eventual champion Argentina was one of the highlights of the men's World Cup in Qatar last year.

Against Australia, though, he said it was like taking on an entire nation. The Australians are co-hosting the tournament with New Zealand, and the government, the football federation and the public are deeply invested in the success of the Matildas. It was the third straight loss for France in a Women's World Cup quarterfinal, including in 2019 as host.

The French had chances in both halves of regulation time, and in extra time — when the Australians appeared to concede an own-goal only for the referee to disallow it.

Australian goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold repelled every French effort on goal and then made three clutch saves in the shootout.

Renard sent on shootout specialist Solene Durand deep in extra time to replace France's starting goalkeeper Pauline Peyraud-Magnin. She made three saves, which would normally be enough to win it. But, as Renard said, it's a game of less than inches.

"We knew the qualities of Durand. She's amazing on the penalty shootout," Renard said. "If we'd won, I was the king of the world. But this evening I'm nothing because we lost for some millimeters.

"This evening it was 50-50, but destiny chose Australia. It was a fantastic image of women's football."

Organizers have sold more than 1.7 million tickets, a Women's World Cup record, and there's been sellout crowds for the big games — including two exceeding 75,000 for Australia's games at Sydney's Stadium Australia.

The expanded 32-team tournament has added an extra element of excitement, and obviously more games.

Australia is the only non-European team left in the tournament now that it's down to four, with its next game against its oldest sporting rival for a spot in the final against either Sweden or Spain.

Renard wouldn't mind seeing the Aussies win it, if just for helping to put on such a vibrant tournament.

"I'm wishing you all the best," he said. "I would like to repeat one more time: This competition was fantastic for us. Beautiful cities, beautiful stadiums, the atmosphere was fantastic.

"It's a shame for us to go home. But, all the best to you now—I'm sure you can win this World Cup."

Glover makes it 2 in a row by winning FedEx Cup opener

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—ostly from the stifling heat, maybe from the pressure, Lucas Glover needed to keep his hands from sweating and he learned a trick long ago from not wearing a glove.

On the 17th tee Sunday, tied for the lead with Patrick Cantlay, he dunked his hands in the ice water of a cooler for as long as he could stand it and then quickly dried them.

"It literally stops them from sweating for a little while," Glover said.

And it did nothing to cool him off.

Glover won the FedEx St. Jude Championship, his second title in two weeks, this time by making three big putts — one of them for bogey — on the back nine, closing with a 1-under 69 and then beating Cantlay in a playoff with what ultimately was the most important shot.

His tee shot on the 18th hole in the playoff found dry land. Cantlay's did not.

Glover won with a par to extend a most amazing run. Just 10 days ago, he started the PGA Tour's postseason at No. 112 in the FedEx Cup — No. 119 in the world ranking — and was looking at an early end to the season.

He won the Wyndham Championship to get into the FedEx Cup playoffs. He won at the TPC Southwind and now already has locked up a spot in the Tour Championship. He is No. 30 in the world. He has earned just short of $5 million in two weeks.

Is the Ryder Cup on the horizon? Glover would have to win the BMW Championship next week to make the team. If not, he felt worthy of a pick.

"Playing pretty good golf, and I think I'd be pretty good in the team room and be a good partner," he said. "So yeah, absolutely I would."

Not even Glover could have imagined this less than three months ago, when he thought the yips would stay with him forever, prompting a change to a long putter that must feel like a magic wand these days.

"If you would have told me this three months ago, I'd tell you you're crazy," he said "But at the same time, if you asked me legitimately did I think I was capable, I'd say yes, even

AP

United States' Jalen Brunson, right, attempts to shoot around Puerto Rico's Tremont Waters during the first half of an exhibition basketball game Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, in Las Vegas.

then. It's just one of those sad ways athletes are wired.

We always believe in ourselves no matter how bad it is."

Belief was at its peak on the back nine. Glover made a 20-foot par putt on the 13th, a 30-foot bogey putt on the par-3 14th after a tee shot into the water, and a 12-foot par putt on the 17th to stay tied with Cantlay, who had finished his superb round of 64 and was watching on TV.

The playoff effectively ended with one shot. Cantlay hit 3-wood that was about a foot from being perfect. Instead, it hopped down the bank and into the water. Glover found the fairway with his 3-wood and two-putted for par. Cantlay took a penalty drop and his 20-foot par putt just slid by the right edge.

"Just hooked the ball a little too much off the tee," Cantlay said. "Bad shot, obviously, and paid the price."

Glover becomes only the third player in his 40s to win back-to-back weeks on the PGA Tour over the last 25 years, joining Kenny Perry (2003) and Vijay Singh, who did it three times, most recently in the FedEx Cup playoffs in 2008.

"Whether you're fighting something or playing great, you just work hard. You never know when it can turn," Glover said. "And it's turned very quickly for me."

The biggest fight was the back nine when some of the game's best lined up trying to take catch him — Cantlay and Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood, Jordan Spieth and Max Homa.

Cantlay played superbly on the back nine, starting with a chip-in on the 10th hole and giving himself birdie on practically every hole after that. Glover looked to be on the ropes and briefly fell one shot behind. But it could have been a lot worse if not for those putts.

"Got to a point there middle of the back nine where it was just kind of survive and try to give myself as many chances as I could coming in," Glover said. "That kept us in the game."

McIlroy birdied the last hole for a 65 and tied for third with Fleetwood (68), who had a birdie chance on the 18th to join the playoff.

Spieth was close most of the way until twice hitting in the water over the last four holes. He shot 70 and joined a large group tied for sixth. Spieth only moved to No. 27 in the FedEx Cup with the late mistakes, and now will have to earn his way to the Tour Championship next week.

Cameron Davis and Hideki Matsuyama played their way into the top 50 in the FedEx Cup. That gets them into the BMW Championship next week, and it assures them a spot in the $20 million signature events next year.

Davis closed with a bogey-free 67. Matsuyama, who has made it to the Tour Championship each of his nine years on the PGA Tour, amazingly has a chance to extend the streak.

He was at No. 57 in the FedEx Cup and was in a tie for 38th going into the final round at the TPC Southwind, still only 2 under for his round after a birdie at the 15th. And then came a storm delay of 90 minutes.

"I looked and saw what I needed to do on the final three holes. I knew I had to birdie them all," Matsuyama said.

He hit 6-iron to 10 feet for eagle on the par-5 16th. He holed a 12-foot birdie putt on the 17th. And then he made a superb up-and-down from behind the 18th green for par and a 65. That was just enough to crack the top 50 and send him to Chicago.

FUTURE

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"We were so close, but they were the better team tonight," he said of their final game.

J.R. Suel, the league's No. 2 batting leader with an average of .500 flat from 13 hits of 26 at-bats, said after the game, "The season was great."

Even ranked No. 2, he said he had his ups and downs throughout the season, but he just kept himself up no matter what and worked as a team because "teamwork makes the dreamwork."

When asked how he felt challenging the undefeated Cardinals team, he said "we lost, but I'm still proud of my team. We gave them a challenge and held them down and we were pretty close."

The 17-year-old incoming Kagman High School senior then thanked his family, his team, and his coaches for their support and the great season.

The season's batting champ, the Cardinals' Nokki Saralu, said that the future of baseball is looking bright. After facing off with the Junior Nationals, he said "these guys were competitive and they've been practicing hard. The chemistry is there, they just need to work a little bit more and grow because they're still young and have a lot more work to do."

As for the Cardinals head coach Juan Demapan, he said of the Junior Nationals team, "they're moving up. They're still young and are a really good team. All they need is mental toughness for the game."

The Junior Nationals finished the regular season tied second with the Falcons in the standings with a 7-3 win/loss record. The 2023 season had 11 teams that also included the CK Bears, Brewers, Blue Jays, Natives, Bandits, D-9er's, Survivors, and Braves.

COACHES

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pitch during training.

He added, "Before, the course was only one day, but now, it's divided into modules so that coaches gain a lot more knowledge, experience, and are able to exchange ideas with other coaches—and are able to develop their competency as a better coach".

At the time of the interview last Thursday, they were in a class session with NMIFA coach Mae Ito and afterwards went out to the pitch for a practical session.

In the first module, Asian Football Confederation and Japan Football Association's Takeshi Ono and Yasuhiko Kimura assisted Mita with the course.

Once the B Coaching License is obtained, the next level is the A Coaching License and then the Pro Diploma. In all of NMIFA, only Mita holds the pro diploma, while Irish Pagarao has the A license.

Brunson has perfect shooting night to help US beat Spain, 98-88

MALAGA, Spain (AP)—The U.S. World Cup basketball team got its first big test of the summer Sunday, and a perfect shooting night from Jalen Brunson helped ensure the Americans passed.

Brunson was 9 for 9 from the field on the way to a team-best 21 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 14 and the U.S. pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Spain 98-88 in a pre-World Cup exhibition between tournament favorites. Spain is the No. 1-ranked team in the world according to FIBA; the U.S. is No. 2.

The Americans shot 67%—71% on 2-pointers, 56% on 3-pointers, while holding Spain to 42% shooting.

The U.S. improved to 3-0 in its pre-World Cup tour with two games left before arriving in Manila for the tournament. The Americans have averaged 101.3 points in those three games against Puerto Rico (117-74), Slovenia (92-62) and Spain, with an average winning margin of 27.7 points.

The U.S. led just 73-72 going into the final 10-minute quarter, before seven straight points down the stretch pushed the lead out to 97-84.

Tyrese Haliburton had 12 assists in just under 22 minutes off the bench for the U.S., his second double-figure assist game so far this summer. Mikal Bridges scored 12 points and three players — Brandon Ingram, Austin Reaves and Anthony Edwards — each added 11.

Santi Aldama topped Spain with 14 points. Willy Hernangomez scored 13 oiubts, Alex Abrines had 12 and Juancho Hernangomez 11.

The U.S. departs Monday for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for its final two pre-World Cup games this coming weekend against Greece and Germany. The World Cup starts in the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan on Aug. 25; the Americans start their World Cup slate on Aug. 26.

KULTURA

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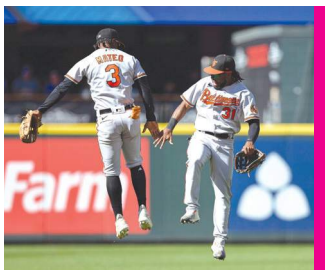
Jericho Cruz testimonial

Former CNMI National Team shooting guard, Jericho Cruz, who is now a professional basketball player in the Philippine Basketball Association with the San Miguel Beermen, said in a testimonial emailed that: "Having had the honor of being coached by him for more than a decade, I have personally witnessed the enchantment he brings to the court. I not only honed my abilities as a player but also grew as an individual under his guidance. With him at the forefront, representing the CNMI National Team was an experience I will never forget."

Cruz added, "His strategies, game plans, and insights were always ahead of the curve, putting our team in the best possible position to succeed. Beyond the Xs and Os, coach Elias Rangamar is distinguished by his ability to inspire and mentor. He has an innate ability to comprehend the assets and weaknesses of each player on and off the court. His counsel shaped my character by teaching me the importance of discipline, collaboration, and perseverance."

Cruz said that now that Rangamar is embarking on a new voyage with his basketball academy, Cruz has no doubt that countless young players will reap the benefits of his vast experience and wisdom. "Coach Elias Rangamar is not only an exceptional basketball coach but also an exceptional mentor and a genuine steward of the game. I am incredibly appreciative of the years I spent under his tutelage and am confident that his legacy will continue to radiate brightly in the basketball world," said Cruz.



Mullins robs homer in 9th, goes deep in 10th as Orioles beat Mariners.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Glover makes it 2 in a row by winning FedEx Cup opener.

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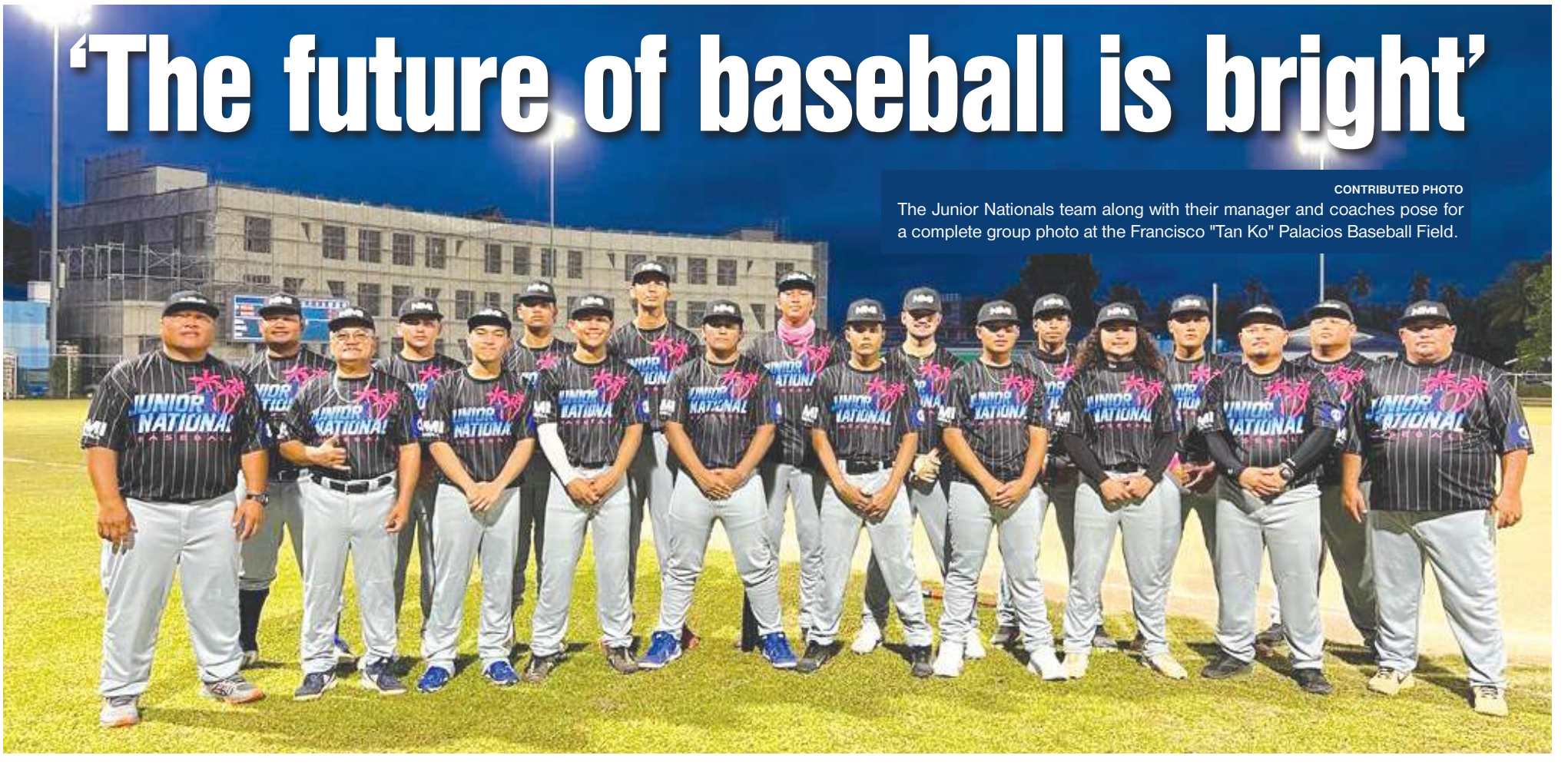
'The future of baseball is bright'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Junior Nationals team along with their manager and coaches pose for a complete group photo at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

After the youngsters of the Junior Nationals team stuck around until the end and fought an all-star packed and seasoned Cardinals roster in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League three-game championship series, it's safe to say that the future of baseball in the CNMI is bright.

The last time the U17 Junior Nationals played any competitive baseball was when they were just 12-year-olds in the local Little League program, and to make it all the way to the championships, according one of their coaches, John Peter Sablan, was nothing short of remarkable.

About their two championship games against the Cardinals, Sablan said, "They're a tough team. They're all stars from the first to the ninth batter. I fought my best with my boys—they did good and I'm proud of them—I love my team."

He added, "We made a couple mistakes, but we'll clean that up in practice. It's their first time to be in a championship game… and they made it this far. So, I'm proud of them no matter what. Errors don't bother me because I know what they're capable of."

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Coaches complete Module 2 of B Coaching Diploma Course

By LEIGH GASES
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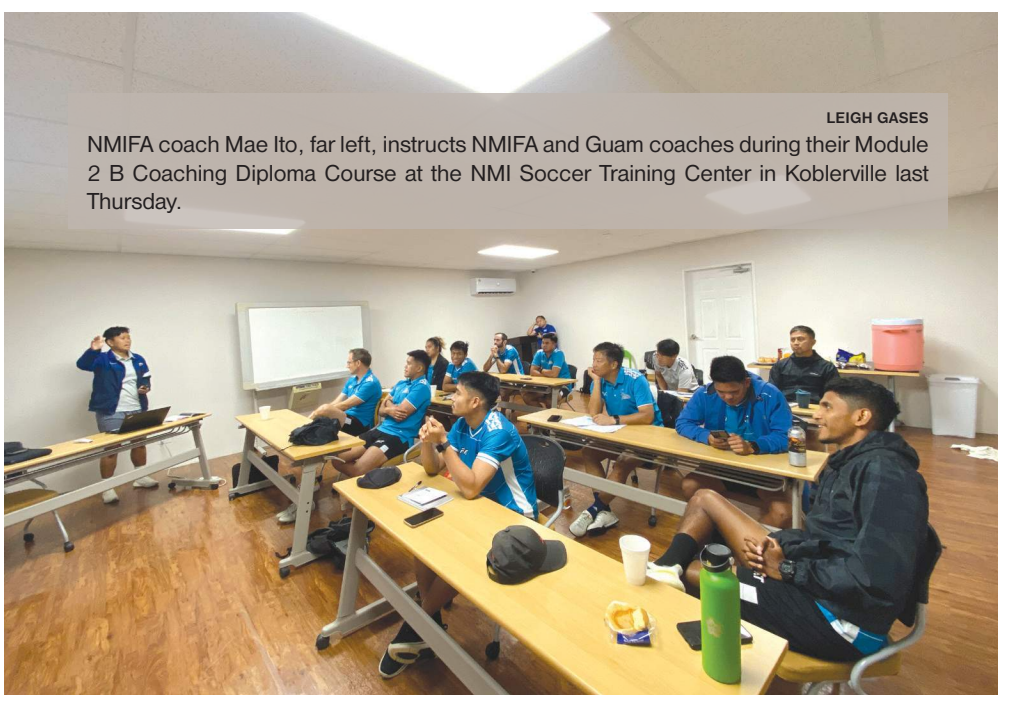
REPORTER



LEIGH GASES
NMIFA coach Mae Ito, far left, instructs NMIFA and Guam coaches during their Module 2 B Coaching Diploma Course at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Thursday.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association completed Module 2 of the NMIFA's first ever B Coaching Diploma Course at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville yesterday.

The course which started Module 1 of the four-part course from last July 6 to 11, resumed last Aug. 8 and ended yesterday. The next two modules are from Dec. 6 to 12, 2023; and from Jan. 15 to 21, 2024.

All modules will have coaches attend classroom discussions and practical sessions on the pitch.

Originally, there were 10 coaches from both the CNMI and Guam, but are now down to nine due to one coach's schedule conflicts.

Russ Zapanta, Ronel Ocanada, Jireh Yobech, Mikky Vargas, Davy Laxa, Chris Aninzo, and Martin Jambor are the coaches from the CNMI.

NMIFA technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita is the course's main instructor and said the continuation of the course is going well.

He said with the course contents, they try to provide more reality-based learning—like what usually happens on the

See COACHES on Page 19

Kultura Basketball Academy this Saturday

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES
The youth are invited to join the Kultura Basketball Academy this Saturday, August 19 at the Agape Gymnasium.

Grab your basketball shoes, put your game face on, and head on down to the Agape Christian School Gymnasium for the new Taga Hoops program under the Kultura Basketball Academy.

The program is from every Saturday starting Aug. 19, 2023, to Nov. 25, 2023.

The program is divided into two time slots and two age groups: 6- to 9-year-olds are from 9am to 10:15am, while 10- to 12-year-olds are from 10:30am to 12pm.

The fee for the program is $45 per month.

Under academy instructor and longtime national coach and development officer Elias Rangamar, the program uses basketball activities and games to provide fun and enjoyable learning and participation experiences for young people ages 6 to 12 years of age.

Taga Hoops is designed for school, community and club players. Their philosophy is to give children the opportunity to play a game that is appropriately suited to the development of their mental, physical, and basketball skills.

The program will feature 16 total sessions covering fundamental motor skills and game skills, highlighted by 3x3 competitions, awards, and T-shirts for all participants.

The training will include ball handling, shooting, offense, defense, and fundamental movements and games.

The program will culminate with some 3x3 competition and a Thanksgiving jamfest.

Fill up the pre-registration form at https://shorturl.at/beAC7

The registration packets and fees will be completed and collected upon orientation day, which will take place on August 19.

For more information, contact Rangamar at (670) 287-6347, ejrangamar@gmail.com orkulturaathletics@gmail.com.

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